

EC endorses new aid for Ethiopia

BRUSSELS (AP) — The 10 member countries of the European Community (EC) endorsed on Tuesday an increase in emergency aid to drought-stricken Ethiopia and surrounding African nations. The EC's Council of Ministers, representing the member country national governments, issued a resolution in support of a decision last week by the EC's executive commission to step up the aid. The commission said it would ship emergency food and other supplies valued at 57 million European currency units (about \$42 million) to Ethiopia, Mauritania, Niger, Mali and Chad. Meanwhile a major Eritrean rebel organisation Tuesday reiterated its call for a ceasefire in Ethiopia to allow international relief agencies to feed the needy in the war zones. As estimated six million people in Ethiopia, including 1.25 million in Eritrea, face starvation of international help is not stepped up dramatically over the next months.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

IEA predicts oil consumption slack

PARIS (R) — Growth in world oil consumption is likely to slow next year as economic growth slackens, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said Tuesday. The agency's monthly oil market report forecast that worldwide consumption would rise 1.5 per cent to an average 46.3 million barrels per day (b/d) during next year's four quarters, after growing 2.7 per cent in 1984 to 45.6 million. Consumption growth in the 24 industrial countries that form the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development is expected to fall to 1.1 per cent next year from 1.6 per cent in the current quarter and 2.3 per cent in the third quarter of this year. Last week members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) decided to reduce output ceilings to help defend prices, which have been under pressure from weak demand.

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Abu Nidal dies of heart attack, British TV says

LONDON (AP) — Palestinian commando leader Abu Nidal has died of a heart attack in Baghdad, a British television report said Tuesday night. The commercial channel 4 network described Abu Nidal as "one of the world's most wanted terrorists." It gave no attribution for its report nor did it say when Abu Nidal died in the Iraqi capital. Abu Nidal was the code name of Sabri Khalil Al Banna, who led the Al Asifa Palestinian group which broke away from Yasser Arafat's Al Fateh. Al Asifa claimed to have shot Israel's ambassador to London, Shlomo Argov, outside the Dorchester Hotel on June 3, 1982. The attempted assassination was given by Israel as a reason for its invasion of Lebanon on June 6.

Masri to head team for Red Sea talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri will head Jordan's delegation to a conference of countries bordering the Red Sea to be held in Khartoum at the end of November, according to a cabinet decision Tuesday. Sudan had earlier called for the conference in the aftermath of a series of explosions, believed to be caused by mines, which damaged at least 19 ships.

U.S. embassy staff sent home

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. embassy in Amman sent its non-essential staff home Monday for two days as a precaution following a threat against American interests by the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) extremist group. Reuters news agency quoted embassy officials as saying they said the threat which mentioned no specific country or target, was received by a Western news agency in Beirut and the U.S. embassy in Beirut. They informed other American missions to allow them to take precautions, Reuters reported. The officials gave no details, but said the Amman embassy would be manned only by a few key personnel Monday and Tuesday, the day of the U.S. presidential elections, Reuters said. Security at the U.S. and other Western embassies in Amman was considerably strengthened after suicide car bomb attacks on American targets in Beirut, the news agency added.

Lower House to convene Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Tuesday will hold session under the chairmanship of Lower House Speaker Akel Al Fayed and in the presence of the cabinet ministers. The House will discuss a number of decisions referred to it by its various committees and will listen to the government's replies on these issues.

Armed Forces present statue

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday which falls on Nov. 14, the Jordanian Armed Forces has presented Amman with a memorial monument representing the Great Arab Revolution's soldier.

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Reagan on edge of landslide win

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Americans went to the polls Tuesday to elect their president as opinion polls and Republican officials said President Ronald Reagan was expected to win with a landslide majority over his Democratic challenger Walter Mondale.

However, Mr. Reagan refused (until midnight Jordan time) to forecast the outcome while Mr. Mondale predicted a stunning upset victory.

The presidential campaign wound up Monday, ending one of the starkest philosophical clashes in recent U.S. history. It pitted the conservative Reagan, at 73 the oldest president ever, against Mr. Mondale, 56, an old-style liberal Democrat.

Mr. Reagan ended his reelection drive in his home state of California. His campaign chief, Ed Rollins, said in a television interview Tuesday the president was "superstitious" about making predictions.

Holding out the possibility of an unprecedented Reagan sweep of all 50 states, he said: "We feel very confident that the American public will elect him by a tremendous margin."

Mr. Mondale, who also closed his campaign in California, the largest state, said he expected to win despite last-minute polls showing him trailing by anywhere from 11 to 25 per cent.

Forecasts were that more than 90 million people would cast ballots, about 55 per cent of the eligible voters. Opinion polls were unanimous in predicting a solid victory for Mr. Reagan.

Voting stations in tiny Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, opened just after midnight (0500 GMT). Voters there cast their ballots 29-1 for Mr. Reagan. Most polls in the eastern United States started business at 6 a.m. (1100 GMT). Polls in the eastern United States

polls showed Mr. Mondale trailing by "nine points and closing," with a good chance to win in 22 or 23 states.

With Mr. Reagan heavily favoured for a second four-year term, much attention focussed on the contest to control Congress, which will decide the fate of the president's domestic and foreign policy programmes.

All 435 seats in the House of Representatives were to be filled. Mr. Rollins and Mr. Fahrenkopf predicted the Republicans would score a net gain of 15 to 20, well short of the 51 needed to control the chamber's key legislative committees.

Most analysts predicted the Democrats would gain in the Senate, where 33 of 100 seats are up for election, but would not score the net gain of six needed to take control of the chamber that confirms presidential cabinet choices and approves arms control and other treaties.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Mondale voted and awaited election results in their home states of California and Minnesota, while their vice-presidential running mates, George Bush and Geraldine Ferraro, did the same in Texas and New York.

Mr. Bush, Reagan's first-term vice president, and Ms. Ferraro, a member of Congress and the first woman on a major party's presidential ticket, engaged in even sharper verbal exchanges during the campaign.

But Mr. Reagan, in his final campaign appearances Monday, ridiculed Mr. Mondale as a symbol of the failed policies of the past and a man who would raise taxes to finance big-spending liberal domestic programmes while weakening U.S. defences.

"Tomorrow we can vote to go forward with an America of momentum or back to an America of malaise," Mr. Reagan said.

Franjeh, 'Islamic Resistance' condemn Lebanon-Israel talks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two factions not represented in the Lebanese government Tuesday condemned troop withdrawal talks with Israel, due to start on Thursday.

Former President Soleiman Franjeh, who dominates a mostly Christian area of north Lebanon and refused an invitation to join the "national unity" government, told reporters he opposed negotiations with Israel.

"On what are we going to negotiate? In negotiations there should be something to agree on," Mr. Franjeh said at his weekly press conference.

"The heroic national resistance should be supported, and then you

will see Israel withdrawing without gaining any concessions," he said.

Almost daily resistance attacks on some 12,000 Israeli troops are one reason Israel wants to end its costly 29-month occupation of South Lebanon, but Israel is seeking "security guarantees" from Lebanon and Syria in return.

The "Islamic Resistance," a little-known group that claims responsibility for some of the attacks on the Israelis, distributed leaflets in Beirut Tuesday condemning the talks.

"Dialogue with the enemy can be carried out through the rifle of the Islamic Resistance alone," the leaflets said.

Gromyko urges U.S. to join Soviet efforts for peace

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko accused the United States Tuesday of trying to dominate the world and urged it instead to cooperate with the Soviet Union to establish peace.

In a speech marking the 67th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, Mr. Gromyko said the U.S.-Soviet relationship had broken down and it was up to Washington to put words into deeds "since the American administration has lost a great deal of its credibility over the last few years."

"The USSR has no hostile intentions towards the USA. We offer peace and peace only. We are ready to cooperate with it in the interests of strengthening international security," he said.

Mr. Gromyko repeated Soviet charges that the Reagan administration was seeking military supremacy and pushing the world towards nuclear holocaust.

Syrian-Iraqi pipeline dispute hits new snags

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwait-based judicial tribunal looking into Syria's closure in 1982 of a pipeline carrying Iraqi oil across Syrian territory announced Tuesday that efforts to solve the dispute had hit fresh snags.

The seven-member panel, hearing the case on behalf of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), has been reshuffled after a jurist withdrew on health grounds. This means that earlier arguments must be resubmitted.

The panel had expected to rule in August on Syrian objections to procedures for the hearing, but the ruling was deferred to this month because some tribunal members could not attend the session.

It has now been postponed to Jan. 7, a press statement said. Iraq, at war with Iran since September 1980, filed a suit calling for the pipeline to be reopened and compensation for lost revenue. Syria, which supports Iran in the war, says the closure was an act of sovereignty on its territory.

Iraq's oil exports have fallen by more than two-thirds to around one million barrels a day, mainly through a pipeline across Turkey, since the line across Syria to the Mediterranean was shut. Its Gulf ports were blocked soon after the war began.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday inspects a guard of honour mounted by the 22nd batch of officers who graduated from the Royal Military Academy (Petra photo)

King: Arab unity, joint action most essential to face challenges

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Tuesday that the challenges facing the Arab Nation cannot be confronted successfully in the absence of joint Arab action, and Jerusalem cannot be liberated unless there is a real unified Arab and Islamic effort, and the Palestinian people under occupation cannot pursue their struggle and maintain their steadfastness unless they are backed by a united Arab front.

King Hussein was addressing a ceremony for graduating the 22nd group of officers from the Royal Military Academy.

"The more the Zionists are escalating their settlement programmes in the occupied territories the bigger will be Jordan's responsibilities and commitments," the King said.

"Our endeavours in defending Jordan's security are part of our drive to defend the whole Arab Nation and our armed forces which protect the Arab homeland should therefore be provided with the means to enable them to shoulder this great task," the King said.

He said: "We want the armed forces to serve as a symbol of steadfastness and a shield protecting the Arab Nation from its enemies. Therefore Jordan's call for pan-

Arab solidarity is sincere, because we went to see true joint Arab action supported by stands and deeds.

"We will pursue our efforts and will not be discouraged or diverted from our objectives, and we will not allow our will to weaken. In our drive to achieve Arab solidarity we decided to resume our political and diplomatic relations with Egypt because we are keen on mobilising Arab forces to abort enemy designs."

The ceremony was attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat, Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi and Akel Al Fayed respectively, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, cabinet and parliament members, senior officials, the commander of the Palestinian forces in Jordan, heads of diplomatic missions in Jordan, invited guests and relatives of the graduates.

The graduates included 41 officers from other Arab states and an Iraqi was named the most excellent graduate in the batch.

After the King had distributed the awards, Sharif Zaid distributed diplomas to the graduates.

King Hussein referred to the weakness characterising the Arab Nation which, he said, "encourages the enemies to fulfil their ambitions in our lands and to further divide the Arab states and weaken them so that they can fall

Hong Kong agreement presented to Chinese parliament

PEKING (R) — Foreign Minister Wu Queshan has said China's agreement with Britain on the future of Hong Kong, presented to the parliament here Tuesday for approval, would be signed by the end of this year.

The official New China News Agency quoted Mr. Wu as saying the pact had been agreed through careful and patient negotiations and was in the interests of all the Chinese people.

Western diplomats say British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher may fly to Peking next month for the signing.

The accord was initiated in September after two years of delicate negotiations. It allows Hong Kong to retain its capitalist way of life for 50 years after China recovers sovereignty in 1997.

Mr. Wu Tuesday submitted the agreement and his own report on the declaration to the standing committee of the Chinese National People's Congress.

Some senior conservative Communist Party members apparently have been concerned about the extensive autonomy granted to the territory under the agreement.

But the congress is largely a rubber stamp body and is expected to endorse the accord without recommending changes, the diplomats said.

The British parliament is also examining the accord.

The agreement will be incorporated into what the Chinese call a basic law under which Hong Kong will be administered after 1997 when it becomes a special administrative region of the People's Republic.

Mr. Wu said that after its return to China, Hong Kong would continue its role as an international port and financial centre.

Passengers overpower Saudia hijackers at Mehrabad airport

TEHRAN (R) — Passengers, including one wielding an axe, Monday ended an eight-hour ordeal by overpowering two hijackers of a Saudi Arabian TriStar airliner at Tehran's Mehrabad airport.

A Saudi soldier, Ali Al Ahmari Abdullah, told reporters he attacked one hijacker with an axe and threw him off the plane after his attention had been diverted with an offer of blankets, which started a general scuffle.

The hijackers, believed to be Yemenis, commandeered the Saudia plane, carrying 131 people, Monday night on a flight between the Saudi cities of Jeddah and Riyadh that originated in London, the official Iranian news agency IRNA said.

The agency said the hijackers, who were arrested, had demanded a \$500,000 ransom, an end to what they called Saudi influence in Yemen and political asylum in Iran.

It was not clear whether the hijackers came from North or South Yemen but their demand appeared to suggest North Yemen.

Earlier, IRNA said the passengers had been freed by Iranian forces, saying they moved swiftly at an appropriate moment.

The passengers escaped down emergency chutes at 10.30 a.m. (0700 GMT), about eight hours after the plane had been hijacked. Several of them were seen to have cuts and bruises.

One passenger, 45-year-old Donna Grant, from Vancouver, Canada, told reporters she heard one shot and everybody rushed forward. "The next thing we knew we were sliding down the chutes," she said.

But Ida Hannel, from Glasgow, Scotland, who works in a military hospital in Riyadh, said she heard two or three shots.

Official Iranian sources said only one passenger was injured in the drama.

The Saudi soldier, Abdullah, 40, told reporters he attacked one hijacker at least four times on the head with an axe "then I threw

him out of the plane."

He had a heavily bandaged hand, but proudly pointed out blood on his white thobe (Saudi dress) which he said was from a hijacker.

The passengers, who were taken to a Tehran hotel, said one hijacker, aged about 40, had been armed with a hand gun, while the other, about 20, had no weapons.

There were no indications that any of the hostages had received bullet wounds. One passenger had been taken from the plane earlier after suffering a heart attack. His identity or nationality was not immediately known.

Another passenger, Tareq Mustafa Tayeb, who described himself as an off-duty Saudia pilot, told reporters he believed the hijackers boarded the plane in Jeddah.

Many Britons, possibly about 40, and other expatriates working in Saudi Arabia, were also believed to have joined the flight in Jeddah for the short flight to Riyadh.

Disarmament talks open fourth session

STOCKHOLM (AP) — The conference on disarmament in Europe opened its fourth session Tuesday with both East and West Germany urging participants to agree at least on ways to move their discussions forward on ways to reduce the risk of accidental war in Europe.

During three earlier sessions the meeting, officially called the conference on confidence and security-building measures and disarmament in Europe, has agreed on nothing.

Like previous sittings, Tuesday's was closed to the press, and texts of the speeches were not released.

But, discussing them afterward, Western delegates indicated they saw hints of movement in East German delegation head Gunter Buhring's stress on the importance of an agreement on work-

king procedures.

The conference opened on Jan. 17 and is to last at least two years. Participants include the Soviet Union and all other European states except Albania, the United States and Canada.

Nine neutral states proposed a set of working procedures as the second session ended on July 6. The United States and other Western delegations accepted it, but the Soviets and their Eastern allies said no.

Crown Prince visits Iran-Iraq war front

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan continued his tour of the Gulf war front Tuesday, visiting the central sector where Iran and Iraq engaged in fierce fighting last month, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

He visited the southern front Monday.

The agency said Prince Hassan was accompanied by Iraq's Vice-Chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council Izzat Ibrahim and Iraq's army chief of staff.

The commander of Iraq's Second Army Corps briefed the Crown Prince on recent victories by Iraq during the latest battles in the Seif Saad area of the central sector.

Baghdad newspapers said the Crown Prince saw advanced formations and sophisticated military equipment at the front and noted the troops "high morale and readiness to repel any Iranian attack."

A senior Iraqi commander was quoted in a Baghdad newspaper Monday as saying Tehran's main target in any new offensive would be on the southern war front where thousands of Iranians massed close to Basra port.

Prince Hassan reaffirmed Jordan's support for Iraq in the four-year old conflict when he arrived in Baghdad on Sunday.

The Crown Prince attended Saturday's funeral in New Delhi of assassinated Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and paid a one-day visit to Oman before arriving in Baghdad on Sunday.

He is accompanied by an official delegation including Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar and a senior official from the Armed Forces.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Naser Eddin Grand Market will be closed on Friday at 2:00 p.m.
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Arab-Americans take increased political role

NEW YORK — Arab-Americans are participating in this year's presidential election campaign in larger numbers and with a greater sense of purpose than ever before, according to Arab-American leaders and campaign organisers.

For the first time, they say, Arab-Americans hold official jobs in the campaign of the Democratic and Republican presidential nominees. Three Arab-Americans are vice-chairmen of Walter Mondale's campaign, and dozens of others have banded together in a committee supporting the re-election of President Reagan.

The numbers involved are not large compared to other interest groups, and there is doubt that Arab-Americans will ever be able to seriously counter the strength of the pro-Israel lobby in the United States. But Arab-American leaders are optimistic that they will someday be able to influence United States policy in the Middle East.

According to most recent estimates, there are two million to three million Americans of Arab descent, concentrated in such areas as Detroit, Los Angeles and Dallas.

"This year marked the peak of participation so far, and I expect it to be greater," said James Abourezk, an Arab-American who was a senator from South Dakota. He now heads the Arab-American Anti-Discrimination Committee, a grass-roots organisation with 20,000 members.

"We are gathering momentum, strength and allies," Mr. Abourezk said.

There are now two Arab-American governors, John H. Sununu of New Hampshire and Victor G. Atiyeh of Oregon, both Republicans; two senators, James Abdnor, Republican of South Dakota, and George Mitchell, Democrat of Maine, and three representatives.

The Arab-Americans' goal is a "more balanced" United States policy in the Middle East, said David Sadd, president of the National Association of Arab-Americans, a lobbying group. He

said such a policy "does not automatically support Israel no matter what it does" and would support creation of a Palestinian state, which both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Mondale oppose.

Mr. Abourezk said he thought the goal could be realised despite the Israel lobby's power. "I've been in politics all my life, and I have seen how things can change," he said.

When Arab-Americans arrived from such countries as Lebanon, Syria and Iraq that is now Israel over the last 80 years, their first aim, like other ethnic groups, was to join the mainstream of American life. "When my father came he just worked in his store," said James Zogby, a Lebanese-American who was vice-chairman of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Arab-Americans say they have been negatively stereotyped in a country that considers Israel "flesh and blood," as Governor Cuomo put it in his speech in the 1984 Democratic National Convention. They say the image problem was exaggerated by the 1973 oil embargo and the 1979 seizure of American hostages in Iran.

But they say politicians are exhibiting a greater receptiveness to the Arab-American voice.

Mr. Zogby said that as recently as four years ago Arab-Americans did not have the "infrastructure" to participate as an effective political force.

But he said Mr. Abourezk's committee, formed in 1980, and Mr. Sadd's lobbying association, which started in 1972 but did not gain momentum until the last few years, had promoted internal cohesion. Mr. Zogby said politicians were realising this and were eager to exploit it for their benefit.

Arab-American leaders agree that so far the new relationship

with politicians has been most clearly demonstrated in Mr. Jackson's campaign, for which Arab-Americans raised \$300,000. "Jesse welcomed us into the process with open arms," Mr. Zogby said. "He ended the pariah status of Arabs. He gave us self-esteem by showing us we could work and be counted this way."

Other Arab-Americans joined the campaigns of Mr. Mondale and Mr. Reagan, but the majority of Arabs are said to support the Republican Party. George Salem, executive director of "Ethnic Voters for Reagan-Bush," said Republican Arab-Americans were conducting mail and telephone drives to register Arab-American voters and to reach into such places as Allentown, Pennsylvania, and Dearborn, Michigan, where tens of thousands of Arab-Americans live.

Representative of Israeli organisations said they were not afraid of the Arab-American lobby's growth. "We do not object to this movement insofar as it expresses the maturation of an ethnic group, but we oppose it insofar as it is anti-Israel," said a senior official of a pro-Israel organisation in Washington.

There is scepticism that the Arab-American lobby can ever achieve the influence of the pro-Israel lobby. Fred Dutton, a Washington lawyer who represents the Saudi ambassador, noted that there were fewer Arab-Americans than Jews. In addition, he said, most Arab-Americans came from occupied countries and had never developed a strong political identity.

Even the most optimistic Arab-American leaders concede that discrimination persists. They said that Mr. Mondale and Mr. Reagan compete for Jewish votes but do not even address Arab-Americans in their campaign oratory.

"The building is not built yet," Mr. Zogby said. "But at least we have a foundation." — New York Times.



RESCUED PASSENGERS: The released passengers of the hijacked Saudi Arabian Airlines Tristar are gathered at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport Tuesday after Iranian security forces overpowered and captured the hijackers. The 117 passengers and 14 crew were on the plane when it was hijacked while on a flight from London to Saudi Arabia (AP wirephoto).

S. Yemen seeks further cooperation in tourism with Jordan, aide says

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism in South Yemen Abdullah Al Bar Tuesday expressed his interest in strengthening cooperation in tourism between his country and Jordan.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra Mr. Bar said that strengthening cooperation between his country and Jordan was the main subject of a discussion during a meeting between him and Jordan's Minister of Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Taher Hikmat.

Mr. Hikmat expressed Jordan's readiness to assist South Yemen by qualifying tourist cadres and supplying it with the necessary expertise in the field of tourism, Mr. Bar said.

South Yemen, he added, "has invested \$54 million in tourism and is currently exerting intensive efforts to prepare qualified tourist cadres and carry out a tourist survey for both Yemens."

Mr. Bar expressed the hope that the organisation will play a sound role in developing and promoting tourist activities in the Arab World.

Mr. Bar is currently taking part in a five day extraordinary session of the Arab Tourism Organisation, which was held at the Regency Palace Hotel on Monday.

In the opening speech, Mr. Hikmat said the establishment of the organisation is an important step on the path to develop Arab tourism which constitutes one of

the Arab economy's pillars.

Mr. Hikmat also stressed the importance of tourism in strengthening ties of Arab solidarity and achieving Arab unity.

He also welcomed the participants and conveyed to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and those of the Jordanian government and people and expressed Jordan's happiness to host this session.

During Monday's meetings, Jordan's representative to the meeting Abdul Rahman Abu Rahab was elected Secretary General of the Organisation.

Taking part in the meetings are representatives of 16 Arab countries and a representative of the Arab League General Secretariat.

Egypt develops armament industry

CAIRO (R) — Egypt has embarked on an ambitious programme to develop and expand its armaments industry. Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala said in an interview published Tuesday.

The semi-official Cairo daily Al-Ahram quoted Field-Marshal Abu Ghazala as saying that the programme included the construction of a tank factory at a cost of 600 million Egyptian pounds (\$720 million).

He said the first tank would be produced in 1988/89 and during the initial stages, armoured cars and other vehicles would be assembled at the plant.

Egypt had also developed a mobile air defence unit comprising an anti-aircraft gun, a ground-to-air missile launcher and radar all mounted on a single vehicle, he said.

Since it ceased to depend on the Soviet Union for its armaments more than 10 years ago, Egypt has turned to the West.

Gemayel: Algeria willing to help end Lebanon war

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel has said on returning from a two-day visit to Algiers that Algeria was willing to help Lebanon end its nine-year-old civil war, Beirut Radio reported.

The state-run radio quoted Mr. Gemayel as saying Algerian President Chadid Benjedid had given assurances that his country was willing to use its relations "locally, regionally and internationally" to help end "the Lebanese ordeal".

Sources in Mr. Gemayel's delegation told Reuters Mr. Benjedid had assured Mr. Gemayel that Algeria would take steps to help Lebanon politically, economically and in the field of education. They gave no further details.

The two presidents were in total harmony on the means of dealing with Lebanon's problems, they said.

Mr. Gemayel's trip to Algiers followed that of cabinet minister and Shiite Muslim leader Nabih Berri, who attended celebrations of the 30th anniversary of the Algerian Revolution, and coincided with a visit by Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam. Mr. Berri, who last month said

he was considering resigning from the government because of its procrastination over reforms, Monday decided to remain in the cabinet.

Algeria has been mediating with Syria over the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but has not played any major role in the Lebanese crisis so far.

Lebanon has asked Arab states to fulfill commitments made at the 1979 Tunis Summit Conference to give Beirut \$2 billion in financial aid. Of this amount, only \$400 million have been received so far.

The delegation sources said Mr. Benjedid gave his country's blessings for U.N.-sponsored military talks on Israeli withdrawal from South Lebanon, due to begin on Thursday.

They said Mr. Gemayel's visit had established new principles for bilateral relations and that a joint Lebanese-Algerian committee would be established as early as next month to discuss strengthening ties.

They added that Mr. Benjedid had accepted an invitation to visit Lebanon.

Bourguiba in hospital after heart trouble

TUNIS (R) — Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, 81, had hospital treatment Monday night after suffering what officials here described as heart troubles brought on by fatigue.

His doctors announced he was taken to the Ernest Conell Hospital here Monday for better observation and appropriate treatment.

Earlier they had said in a communique they were advising him to rest for a few days to recover from a "mild indisposition" brought on by overwork.

Senior government officials were reluctant to reveal the exact nature of his heart troubles.

Mr. Bourguiba, officially called the father of this North African nation of seven million people, is the doyen of Africa's heads of state and has led Tunisia since independence from France in 1956.

He suffered a first heart attack in 1967 and since then he has gone to Europe and the United States for bouts of treatment to his teeth, gums and eyes, as well as for hepatitis and depression.

But it is rare for the president to be taken to hospital in Tunisia.

Well-informed sources say the Presidential Palace in Carthage is equipped with medical facilities to cope with routine problems.

A previously unannounced visit here by Malian President Moussa Traore scheduled for Saturday has been postponed, Foreign Ministry sources said. But government business appeared to be proceeding normally and a leader of the ruling Destour Socialist Party left the capital Monday for a provincial meeting.

Since Mr. Bourguiba's first heart attack, politicians have been fascinated with the question of who will succeed the man who moulded the country into what is probably the Arab World's most tolerant state and still remains the arbiter of key decisions.

Under the 1969 constitution, Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali is due to succeed the president in the event of his death until the next legislative elections scheduled for 1986.

The announcement of Mr. Bourguiba's hospital admission followed his return on Friday from a rare trip abroad to attend the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Algerian revolt against France.

Euro-Arab parliamentary meeting opens in Madrid

MADRID (AP) — Chadi Klibi, Secretary General of the Arab League, said here on Tuesday that the opening of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon would be essential for reconstruction of the country.

Addressing the 10th annual Euro-Arab Parliamentary meeting that opened in Madrid, Mr. Klibi blamed Europe for what he said is its contribution to maintaining instability in Lebanon.

He said that "consolidation of relations between European countries and Israel fails to solve existing problems and represents a serious barrier towards dialogue between Europe and Arab Nations."

As long as Israel keeps receiving aid from Europe, Israel will go on with its expansionist policies," he said.

Mr. Klibi referred to the Iran-Iraq war as "the most serious con-

flict since World War II," which he said is a destabilising factor in the Middle East "and a danger that might provoke the intervention of other nations" because of economic reasons.

Earlier in the day Mr. Klibi conferred with King Juan Carlos and Socialist Premier Felipe Gonzalez.

The Euro-Arab conference made of delegates of the European Parliament and the Arab Interparliamentary Union, both created 10 years ago, is seeking to strengthen relations between Europe and the Arab World.

French parliamentarian Raymond Oury said that the Madrid meeting will study ways seeking to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The 3-day meeting will also discuss cultural and economic relations between Europe and the Arab World.

French pullout from Chad to be completed on time

N'DJAMENA (R) — France's military withdrawal from Chad will be completed on time by the end of this week, French Chief of Staff Jeannou Lacaze has said.

Libya is complying with an agreement reached with France on Sept. 17 and is also pulling out its troops, Gen. Lacaze told reporters.

Under the accord France's 3,500 troops backing Chadian President Hissene Habre, and 5,000 Libyan troops in northern Chad backing rebels led by former President Goukouni Oueddei, are to be out of Chad by Friday.

Gen. Lacaze had an hour of

talks with Mr. Habre Monday which he said focussed on military cooperation in the light of the withdrawal, after which more than 100 instructors will stay.

French military sources said about a quarter of the French troops had left Chad and the rest had pulled back into the capital ready to depart.

France sent 3,200 troops to Chad in August 1983 to help Mr. Habre, forces halt a Libyan-backed rebel offensive.

Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Al-Tureiki said Monday Libya was satisfied with the withdrawal operations.

Nepal to return troops to UNIFIL

KATHMANDU (R) — Nepalese troops will rejoin the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon, Nepal's official news agency said Tuesday.

The government decided the United Nations Interim Force (UNIFIL) was more able to carry out its peacekeeping role than in

1982, when Nepal pulled out its force of about 500-600 troops, the agency said.

The agency did not say how many troops would be going or when they would go.

"His Majesty's government discontinued the army's participation in 1982 when it felt UNIFIL could

not fulfill effectively its mandate of preserving peace," it said.

"Judging the prospects of UNIFIL more favourable, his majesty's government has decided to renew the Royal Nepal Army's participation upon request by the United Nations Security Council," the agency added.

U.S. embassies tighten security in Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — U.S. embassies along the Gulf region spent Tuesday with one eye on the presidential election at home and another on reports of terror attacks on their own doorsteps.

Embassy officers, contacted by telephone in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and elsewhere in the region, conceded they were concerned over the eventuality of suicide

bomb attacks during election day. They noted that, two days ahead of election, a shadowy group calling itself "Islamic Jihad" warned it would strike again at American institutions in the Middle East.

The same group, in the words of an anonymous telephone caller to a Western news agency in Beirut, had even threatened the life of

President Ronald Reagan.

U.S. diplomats in the Gulf said such threats could not go unheeded, since the group in recent months claimed responsibility for a string of terrorist attacks on Americans in the Middle East.

Its name was linked to the Sept. 20 suicide truck-bomb attack on the U.S. embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1413 KHz

MAIN CHANNEL

17:00	Koran
17:15	Children's Programmes
17:30	Local Programme
18:00	Agricultural Programme
18:30	Programmes Review
19:00	News Programme
19:30	Poetry
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:00	Arabic Series (Weekly)
21:30	Tomorrow's Programmes
22:00	Cultural Programme
22:30	News in Arabic
23:00	News in Arabic
23:30	Cultural Programme Cont.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:30	French Programme
20:00	News in Hebrew
20:30	News in Arabic
21:00	Three's Company
21:30	Documentary: Horizon
22:00	News in English
22:30	"V" (Episode 3)

RADIO JORDAN

85.5 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show
09:30	Morning Show
10:00	Pop Session
10:30	News Summary
11:00	Pop Session
11:30	News Summary
12:00	Pop Session
12:30	News Summary
13:00	Pop Session
13:30	News Summary
14:00	News & Letter
14:30	Instrumental
15:00	Old Music
15:30	Concert Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:30	News Summary
17:00	Old Favourites
17:30	Jordan Weekly
18:00	Pop Session
18:30	News Summary
19:00	Over a Cup of Tea
19:30	Musical
20:00	News Desk
20:30	Over with a Star
21:00	Evening Show
21:30	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show
22:30	News Summary
23:00	News Summary
24:00	News Headlines

VOICE OF AMERICA

NW 1260, SW 7200, 95.6, 11740,
11925 & 15210 KHz

06:00-06:30 AM: Morning News on the hour; news, analysis, business, sports report, science and medicine, sports reports; VOA editorials and world and U.S. opinion reporters; analysis, view-points, features. 7:00-7:30 AM: Special English News and Features. 7:30-8:00 AM: News. 8:00-8:30 AM: News. 8:30-9:00 AM: News. 9:00-9:30 AM: News. 9:30-10:00 AM: News. 10:00-10:30 AM: News. 10:30-11:00 AM: News. 11:00-11:30 AM: News. 11:30-12:00 PM: News. 12:00-12:30 PM: News. 12:30-1:00 PM: News. 1:00-1:30 PM: News. 1:30-2:00 PM: News. 2:00-2:30 PM: News. 2:30-3:00 PM: News. 3:00-3:30 PM: News. 3:30-4:00 PM: News. 4:00-4:30 PM: News. 4:30-5:00 PM: News. 5:00-5:30 PM: News. 5:30-6:00 PM: News. 6:00-6:30 PM: News. 6:30-7:00 PM: News. 7:00-7:30 PM: News. 7:30-8:00 PM: News. 8:00-8:30 PM: News. 8:30-9:00 PM: News. 9:00-9:30 PM: News. 9:30-10:00 PM: News. 10:00-10:30 PM: News. 10:30-11:00 PM: News. 11:00-11:30 PM: News. 11:30-12:00 AM: News. 12:00-12:30 AM: News. 12:30-1:00 AM: News. 1:00-1:30 AM: News. 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Alia, Egypt Air to operate weekly Aqaba-Cairo flights from next Tuesday

AMMAN (Petra) — Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Tuesday announced that as of next Tuesday it will start operating direct flights from Aqaba in southern Jordan to Cairo and back on a weekly, but experimental, basis.

A spokesman for the national airline said that Egypt Air, the national Egyptian airline, will operate similar flights in implementation of a recent agreement between the two airlines. According to the spokesman, Alia Boeing 727 planes will take off from Aqaba at 12:45 p.m. on Tuesday arriving in Cairo at around 01:30 p.m., and taking off from Cairo at 2:30 p.m. for the return trip.

The fare for a first class passenger seat will be JD 50 or 115 Egyptian pounds and for the economy class JD 38 or 80 Egyptian pounds, and passengers will be able to carry 30 kilograms of

luggage instead of the usual 20 kilograms and will enjoy the normal standard of services, the spokesman explained.

He said that the new line is bound to serve the local labour market and should boost the tourism industry in the south. The 727s will later be replaced by larger planes and the number of flights will be increased if need be, the spokesman said.

The new line will be very useful for a large sector of Egyptian nationals working in Jordan, and will initiate a tourism integration between the two countries allowing tourists visiting Petra to go to Cairo to see the archaeological sites there, the spokesman added.

He said that officials from both airlines have embarked on drawing up plans for executing a tourist programme linking Aqaba with the tourist sites in Sinai as well.

British group to present Amman's 3rd dinner play

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "There's a Girl in my Soup," says the famous British play, but the soup that precedes the varied menu of gourmet food in my hotel says the general manager of the Intercontinental Hotel which is organising a dinner theatre for the third time in Amman.

Speaking at a press conference Tuesday Mr. Antonius-Mueller Gerbrand said "There's a Girl in my Soup," written by Terence Frisby, will be on show on Nov. 12, 13, and 14 at Al-Baddiyeh room in the hotel. "For those who do not have time to eat and watch a theatre play in the same evening."

Mr. Gerbrand told reporters that the aim of presenting this play here was "to enhance and enrich cultural activities in Amman." The play, which is the second longest after "Mousetrap" has run for 2,570 performances in London attracting more than 1.5 million visitors.

Tony Carven is the director of the record-breaking comedy. He is known also for directing the productions "Godspell", "Temptation", "The Glass Menagerie", "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", and "A Man for all Seasons".

The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel presents the dinner theatre for the third time after the success of last year's production of "Hay Fever" and the production of "A Friend Indeed" the year before.

The event is co-sponsored by British Airways which transported the entire cast which includes Gerald Harper, Anne Roderick, Gary Raymond, Annette Lynton, Martin Stone, Rene Alperstein and Bill Maynard.

Terry Parsons who designed the stage for plays including "The King and I", "Charles and Anne", and the spectacular musical "Sing in the Rain", is also designing the stage for "There's a Girl in my Soup", here in Amman.

Mr. Gerbrand told reporters that the hotel has already sold 450 tickets for the three-day show — the hotel ballroom having the capacity of 200 seats per day. The tickets, sold for JD 15 each, include an open cocktail and classical music by a Polish trio before the show.

The entire cast is on a tour which includes 32 countries in the world. Their next destination is Cairo. Mr. Gerbrand told reporters. The press conference was attended by Assistant General Manager Volker Lindner, Director of Sales Osama Dabbas and Food and Beverage Manager Dieter Lehman and representatives of the local press.



NEW ARRIVAL: Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (left) Tuesday receives the credentials of Arthur John Cole (Petra photo)

Arab Air Cargo plans to expand freight operations in coming year, Ali says

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Air Cargo (AAC) plans to make 624 flights to eastern and western Europe and to African and Latin American countries in the coming year, and will also carry nearly 24,000 tonnes of foodstuffs to Amman and Baghdad, according to the company's director general, Mr. Ghassan Ali.

He said in an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the AAC expects to make \$20 million in total revenues as a result of the 1985 operations.

In the interview, Mr. Ali said that in 1983 the company collected \$5 million in revenues by flying nearly 9,000 tonnes of goods. This year AAC made 457 flights, registering an increase of 50 per cent over the 1983 figures, and collected \$8.8 million in revenues for flying 14,000 tonnes of goods to various destinations.

Mr. Ali said that the Amman-based company was established jointly by Iraq and Jordan in 1981 with a JD 20 million capital, but did not start operations until 1981. At first, AAC employed chartered planes from Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, and Iraqi Airways in the middle of 1982. But in 1983, the AAC purchased two Boeing 707 planes to conduct independent operations. Mr. Ali said.

The creation of the AAC was

necessary due to the lack of an Arab company to carry out air freight, a field wholly left for the foreign companies to handle which proved inappropriate for serving the objectives of Arab development plans, Mr. Ali pointed out.

Arab development

The AAC now helps to transport Arab products within the Arab World and between Arab and foreign countries, he said. AAC is open for other Arab countries to join and to help develop Arab economy and to contribute towards Arab economic integration, Mr. Ali added.

AAC is closely connected and cooperates with Alia and the Iraqi Airways, but it also maintains strong links with other Arab air-

lines, and has opened offices in Arab and foreign countries. Both Alia and Iraqi Airways offer assistance abroad and their offices, ground services and maintenance workshops are always available for AAC planes, Mr. Ali pointed out.

However, he said, AAC is independent financially and administratively and it has a technical staff which handles all issues concerning air freight. AAC faces strong competition from foreign countries but this is partly offset by backing and support from Alia and Iraqi Airways, he said. Mr. Ali added that the AAC is conducting studies on the possibility of purchasing better aircraft for its operations in view of the expected increasing demand for air transport operations.

Housing Corporation director leaves for Tunis conference

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation led by Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaidh left for Tunis Tuesday to take part in an Arab ministers of housing meeting due to open Saturday.

Mr. Zawaidh will submit a memo on Zionist colonisation in Arab lands to the meeting which will also discuss reports and recommendations passed at earlier meetings.

The ministers are expected to discuss an information bulletin on human settlements, ways to encourage building material industries in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and means of offering financial help to various projects in the occupied Arab lands.

JMA calls for better planning to improve health services

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The cost of a comprehensive medical insurance plan in Jordan is JD 60 million, according to a study conducted by the government earlier this year. This plan was delayed due to a lack of finances, but now with the government reconsideration of implementing the Prince Hamza project and due to the availability of doctors, the government is now reviewing the comprehensive medical plan that could benefit all Jordanians.

Jordan has one of the most sophisticated medical systems in the Arab World; well equipped hospitals, highly trained doctors and technical apparatus to deal with medical cases ranging from the minute details of the skin tissues to open-heart surgery. But is this adequate for the health care standards required by citizens?

According to Dr. Hassan Khreis, president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA): "We are facing a major problem in health care in Jordan. We never looked at all aspects of health seriously, our major interest was to have expensive and ultra-modern hospitals with highly sophisticated equipment, equipment that we do not use for much of the time. The cost of this apparatus is sufficient to extend medical services to all parts of Jordan."

In an interview with the Jordan Times Dr. Khreis said, "nowadays we are faced with another problem which is the unemployment of more than 500 doctors, which

prompted us to review the whole health care system in Jordan."

Doctors' unemployment

"This unemployment amongst doctors did not result from a surplus of medical graduates," Dr. Khreis said. "How can we call it a surplus when we have only 13 doctors to care for 100,000 school students? I think that we need those unemployed doctors if we are to extend our medical services to all parts of the country, especially to those areas where the standard of health care is well below any expectation," he continued.

Last month a two-day conference on general health, the first of its kind to be held in Jordan, was opened by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. During the conference Prince Hassan called for more cooperation and coordination between the various medical, educational, social and economic sectors to formulate a specific practical plan to achieve a good standard of health in the country.

Prince Hassan said that although he is a "layman and not a doctor," the figures of high death rate amongst children, the increase of transmitted diseases and the appearance of diseases such as bilharzia and leishmania are a cause of concern to all and must be taken into consideration.

During the conference the JMA highlighted the necessity to establish a new comprehensive plan for the health care in Jordan," Dr. Khreis said. "The convening of this conference is an indication of

the increasing awareness of the importance of the health care issue as a top priority for the Kingdom," Dr. Khreis added.

JMA report

To emphasise the importance of medical care for all Jordanians the JMA Council held a special meeting and issued a report stating: "Medical services have developed to a large extent over the last 30 years. The medical and health consciousness has also increased as a result of the economic, social and cultural development in the country. Consequently, the number of students studying medicine increased due to the drastic need for doctors at that time. Also, doctors were enjoying a very high economic and social status at that time which encouraged the study of medicine on a large scale," the report said.

This development was not accompanied with the right planning and the medical services were concentrated in Amman and other main cities, the report added.

Uneven distribution

Statistics show that there is one doctor for every 1,000 citizens. But, it should be noted that the distribution of medical services in Jordan shows that in the Jordan Valley there is one doctor for every 2,500 citizens, in Wadi Moussa there is one doctor for every 5,000 people and in Ajloun there is one doctor for every 4,000 citizens while some areas have no doctors. In developed countries

there is an average of one doctor for every 350 citizens.

The report said that there are many sectors dealing with health care in Jordan. The private sector plays a major role in curative services through the private hospitals and clinics. The public sector, operating through the Ministry of Health and Royal Medical Services are the two official institutions offering services to citizens. In addition there are the international organisations and agencies such as UNRWA which play prominent but still important role for the provision of health services.

Duplication

The report went on to say that there is a need for coordination between these different sectors in planning in order to reduce costs by decreasing the duplication of work.

According to the report, the number of hospital beds in Jordan are one for every 558 persons, while the international rate is one bed for every 135 persons.

The report also highlighted the following facts: The independence of each sector in planning and responsibility results in increasing health care costs and duplication of work.

All medical sectors are giving importance to advanced medical treatment services except the Ministry of Health and UNRWA. The Ministry of Health in Jordan is employing 28 per cent of all Jordanian doctors who are performing 60 per cent of the medical treatment services, the basic medical services and protective medicine. This overload is reflecting on their performance.

The ministry budget for the year 1983 was only 2.4 per cent of the general budget while in 1978 it was 2.7 per cent. According to a World Health Organisation (WHO) estimation it should be at least five per cent of the general budget.

There is a bad distribution of all levels of medical services. There is a high concentration of medical services in Amman and other cities while services are absent in other areas. Protective medical and health services provided by the Ministry of Health are very limited. Only 40 per cent of the births in Jordan take place under medical supervision.

Studies also shows that there is a need for more mother and child health centres (MCH) to provide minimum services: In schools there are only 13 doctors operating 15 school health centres which cater for more than 700,000 students. In the private sector and community colleges, which together contain more than 100,000 students, the medical care is barely noticeable although high fees are charged for medical services.

In the private sector doctors form 48 per cent of the total number of doctors in Jordan and they have access to 34 per cent of the number of beds in Jordanian hospitals. The number of private clinics are 882, concentrated mainly in cities. This is double the number of the public sector clinics.

Doctors in the private sectors are suffering from the masked unemployment as many of the doctors who opened new clinics can hardly cover the running expenses.

Scholarships

The report also quotes figures from the Higher Education Council which show that there are 9,000 Jordanian medical students studying abroad who are expected to return within the next six years as doctors. The report said that there is a need to limit scholarships to specialisation necessary for Jordan.

The report suggested that proper guidance should be given to students and that the educational strategy of both Jordan and Yarmouk Universities, as far as medicine is concerned, should be reviewed in order to reduce the numbers of doctors.

"We are striving for a better status for both health care and the doctors," Dr. Khreis said. "What we need now is comprehensive medical planning in order to absorb unemployed doctors as part of a plan to upgrading medical services for each and every citizen in the Kingdom," he added.

"The JMA is very active in the field of the holding conferences and seminars and providing doctors with the most up to date research in medicine. We are also trying to establish a medical academy and the JMA is now holding talks with the German Medical Association to study the formation of such an academy," Dr. Khreis concluded.

New bank to promote Jordanian interest, Constant says

London finance consortium chief defends establishment

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the establishment of the London-based Jordan Finance Consortium, the Arab Bank which is the only international Jordanian bank "now has a competitor," the general manager of the Jordan Finance Consortium declared Tuesday.

Mr. Maurice Constant said in an interview with the Jordan Times that the consortium which contains 16 Jordanian shareholders "helps make Jordan better known in the international financial market and represents a competition which is naturally to the benefit of Jordanians going to the United Kingdom." What choice is there for Jordanians going to the U.K. with one Arab Bank and without any competitors, Mr. Constant added.

By having a consortium of banks, he said, "it also helps economise on expenses and the cost of each bank trying to open a branch in London on its own. Hence it is more economic for shareholders and more profitable."

The Jordanian government has given the go-ahead for the establishment of the consortium in London after a vigorous three-month public debate and the formation of a ministerial committee of inquiry. The financial consortium started operating only two weeks ago.

Those against the idea had opposed the arrangement of having the Central Bank of Jordan as a shareholder contributing 20 per cent of the total paid-up capital of £10 million.

Mr. Constant said the Central Bank of Jordan is not a shareholder in the British-registered company. "There was talk about a contribution from the Central Bank but the idea was later abandoned by the management."

Critics of the arrangement then said this would produce a conflict of interest for the Central Bank, "which is first and foremost a supervisor of the banking conduct of Jordanian financial institutions at home or abroad, as well as an arbitrator."

There were also fears that the consortium would be used as a channel for foreign reserves held by the Central Bank, which would thus indirectly lend to the Kingdom's cash-hungry commercial banks and financial houses.

On a wider front, critics of the consortium questioned the profitability of the company currently being registered as a "Licensed Deposit Taker," and not a fully-fledged bank.

Mr. Constant said that under the British law, all banks "no matter how big" when they open in London have to go to the first stage of being deposit takers. "After the Bank of England is satisfied that the bank is properly established with a good quality management, then it will be recognised and will be able to put the word 'bank' in the name."

Although it would take up to two years until the consortium earns a full licence from the Bank of England, Mr. Constant said the consortium meanwhile will provide all types of banking services just like any other bank. "Our shareholders expect from us the same if not better conditions they get from other banks," Mr. Constant said. "We are determined to do our best and compete for the Jordanian business."

Economist Fahed Fanek, who is also Vice-President Finance of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, argues that the consortium which has a registered capital of £20 million could not help Jordanian banks in any way that is not available at more efficient and competitive rates through the present correspondents of major international banks. Mr. Fanek said the consortium will be heavily dependent on the major banks already established "simply adding its charges or margins in the process as an intermediary."

Mr. Constant said the consortium can have accounts in any currency and that it could easily compete with British clearing banks which charge relatively high fees. Beside the 20 per cent of the paid-up capital contributed by the Jordanian government, 15 per cent is supplied by the Housing Bank. The remaining 65 per cent are owned on a roughly equal basis by 14 commercial and merchant banks. The Arab Bank is not included in the scheme as it already has its own activities in London.

Mr. Constant has a long history of banking experience behind him. He was born in Jaffa in occupied Palestine where his father was working as the manager of the Ottoman Bank there. In 1946 he came to Amman to work with the Ottoman Bank here for two years before leaving to Baghdad and then returning in 1966 to Amman as the general manager of the Ottoman Bank.

He established the Canadian Bank and the Italian Bank in London before helping the establishment of the Jordan Finance Consortium. "In London there are more than 400 banks that are all doing well," Mr. Constant said. In 1970, His Majesty King Hussein honoured Mr. Constant with the Independence Medal of the second order in appreciation of his efforts.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordanian students safe in India

AMMAN (Petra) — All Jordanian students in India are safe and not one of them has been hurt as a result of the violence and events, which occurred in the country following the assassination of the late Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, a cable from the Jordanian embassy in India to the Foreign Ministry said.

Cabinet exempts companies from claims

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to exempt 44 industrial companies from settlement of accrual claims which became due in view of the failure by these companies to apply for exemption of their imports. A circular to this effect has been circulated to these companies by the Amman Chamber of Industry.

Arab contracting chairman arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Arab Contractors Federation Abdul Rahim Al Hajouji arrived here on a three-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with a number of officials, the president and members of the Jordanian Contractors Association. Mr. Hajouji's visit aims to hold talks on the federation's programmes and services with a view to developing and improving the capabilities of Arab contractors. Mr. Hajouji will also visit a number of construction and engineering projects in Jordan.

New health centre for Musheirfeh

KARAK (Petra) — A new health centre will be opened in Musheirfeh, Karak Governorate. Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni said Tuesday. Karak Governorate Health Directorate is currently embarking on the necessary steps for opening the centre.

Individual hand painted boxes display the precise craftsmanship of Lepejian

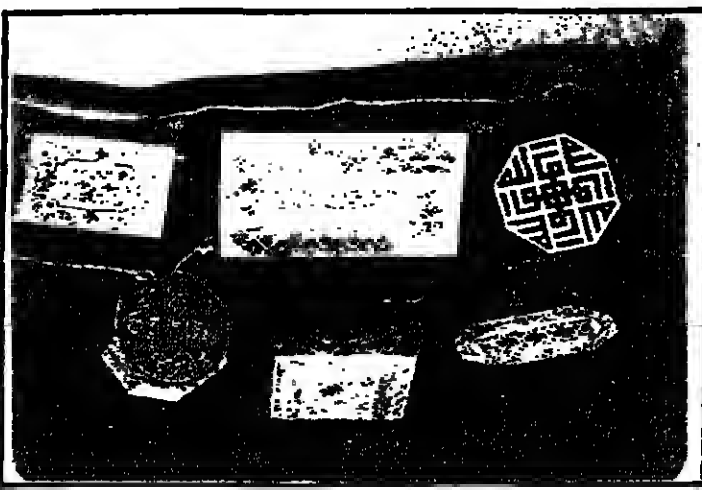
By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — At the British Council this week is a room full of boxes. Not just any boxes, but small hand-carved boxes of olive wood each individually painted with its own intricate Islamic and Arabesque design which sparkle from their lids and sides in golds, blues and reds. This intriguing room full of beautifully crafted boxes is the work of Victor Lepejian.

Although he lives and works in Jerusalem, where he has his own studio and gallery space, Lepejian has exhibited before in Amman. The last time he exhibited here was about two years ago when he showed some of his beaten copper work at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. These boxes thus represent quite a radical change except that the hallmarks of Lepejian's work, excellent craftsmanship and good design, are still very apparent.

One of the most appealing things about Lepejian's boxes is that the curving floral geometric designs used to decorate them are more often than not details of old original designs taken from mosques, ceramic tiles, metal work and Korans from all over the ancient Islamic World, which at its height in the seventh century stretched from Spain in the West to Persia in the East.

Thus, one box is decorated with a design taken from a Koran found in the mosque of Sultan El Ghoury in Cairo, another from a tenth century wall tile found in the Isfahan Mosque in Persia, another from the interior of the dome of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, another from a cut out and applied design used as a wall cov-



Some of intricately hand painted olive wood boxes and caskets decorated with Islamic and Arabesque designs by Victor Lepejian currently on display at the British Council.

ering in the 18th century, another from a Koran found in Granada, written in Maghribi hand in the 15th century, another from a dish of Hispano-Moresque ware from Valencia, another from a tiny medallion from a 12th century satin weaver found in Baghdad and the list goes on.

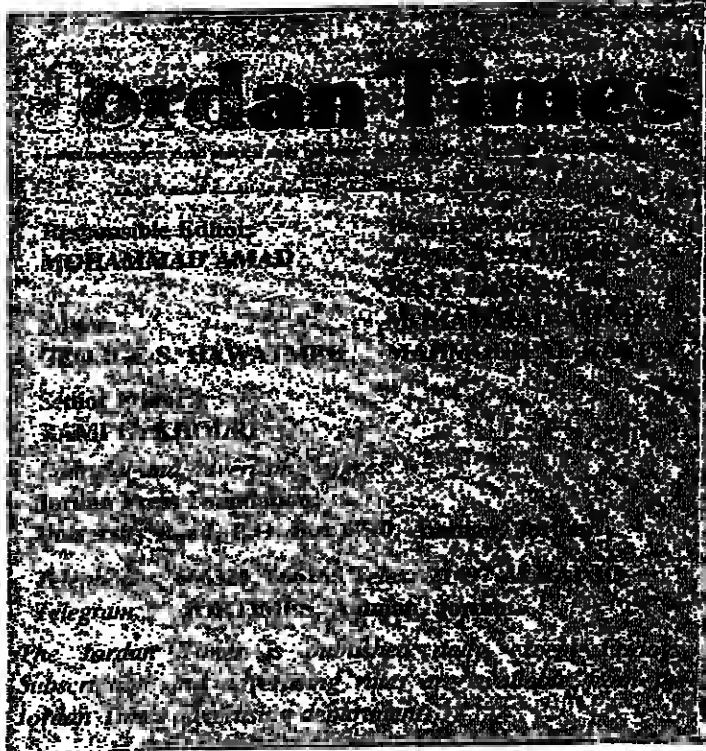
Lepejian's sources are wide and varied and as each box is carefully labelled with the origin of the design and with a translation of the calligraphy often incorporated within it, the exhibition is of great interest.

Varied sources

As Lepejian travels a great deal, he has collected many of the designs himself. Others he has taken from such sources as books and from friends all over the world who send him information of the Islamic designs found in their



A group of people wait outside an orthopaedic surgery for treatment. (J.T. file photo)



For more cooperation

AN announcement by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Tuesday that it will launch direct air flights between Amman and Cairo, in a bid to serve the nationals of both countries and to boost tourism, comes as a first fruit of Jordanian-Egyptian rapprochement and a positive outcome of recent Jordanian-Egyptian meetings. In his talks in Cairo, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan explored the possibility of both countries launching cooperation in tourism along with a host of other fields that would boost the economies of the two countries and promote trade between them. Well, now we can see the fruits ripening fast; and it is a matter of time to reap the good benefits of this bilateral cooperation. The talks, started here in Amman between His Majesty the King and President Hosni Mubarak, were followed up in detail in Cairo by Crown Prince Hassan and Egyptian Prime Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, and through the joint Jordanian-Egyptian committee that has been involved in intensive talks about future cooperation in mining, industry, tourism, agriculture and a numerous other fields. Addressing the joint meeting in Cairo, Prince Hassan underlined the importance of Arab countries cooperating to carry out joint projects, and said that many an Arab scheme had failed due to lack of coordination and joint planning, since an individual state cannot shoulder the task of implementing a difficult scheme on its own. Perhaps Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in tourism is one aspect of such cooperation that can have meaningful results.

Another aspect of inter-Arab cooperation is seen in a development project implemented in North Yemen recently. Early last month Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan, president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), inaugurated a new dam, named Ma'rib Dam after a dam, built by Queen Balqis on the same spot 3,000 years ago, which was devastated in an earthquake. The new dam was financed by the UAE and built by Arab workers. Perhaps Prince Hassan was referring to such cooperation and joint ventures when he urged inter-Arab cooperation on all levels.

The UAE's move to come to the aid of a poorer Arab state and to finance one of its development projects reflects true national belonging, and provides an example that should be copied by other rich Arab states. Inter-Arab cooperation similar to that launched by Egypt and Jordan, and rich Arab states extending assistance to poorer ones, should in fact be a standing practice in the Arab World. Israel continues to receive unlimited support and financial assistance from the United States to help the Zionists not only build their forces but also to establish settlements on Arab lands and expand at our expense.

It is time that Arab states took serious efforts towards enhancing their cooperation and building up a solid and unified stand in the face of the common threat. It is time for the rich Arabs to come to the aid of the poorer ones, and for the oil states to help confrontation states build up their forces to confront the Israeli challenges and conspiracies.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Arabs do care

THE AMERICAN people go to the polls Tuesday to elect a president for the coming four years. The whole world is interested in following up the news of this election and the Arab World has special interest in it because the United States is a superpower and has a major role to play in our region and in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We are interested in who will reside at the White House for the coming years because both presidential candidates have been involved in a race to please Israel and win the votes of the Jewish community in the United States. Their campaign has revealed that the United States is determined to carry on its hostility towards the Arabs and to further enhance its alliance with Israel. Both candidates have been very generous with Israel promising many bonuses if they win the election. Walter Mondale has promised to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem and Reagan has promised many other bonuses and already gave Israel in advance warplanes to kill the Arabs and money to spend on building settlements on their lands.

The difference between the two candidates is only the volume of their hostility towards the Arabs. We hope that whoever reaches the White House will reconsider his position and try to establish right and justice, so that the U.S. can be welcome to resume a meaningful role in solving world issues.

Al Dustour: Active HIC role

THE HIGHER Islamic Council (HIC) in Jerusalem has called for a general strike on Saturday in protest against Israeli acts of desecration against Al Aqsa Mosque and other religious places in occupied Palestine. The HIC has also issued an appeal to all Arab and Islamic countries and organisations to support the Arab inhabitants in the occupied lands and back their struggle for freedom.

The HIC realises that the protests and the appeals to the Arabs have not borne fruit, and now it is resorting to civil strikes in order to make their demands clear to all. We support the HIC and back its endeavours and we hope that Arab and Islamic states will offer meaningful help to the Arab inhabitants and save the holy places.

Sawt Al Shaab: They just vote

NEARLY ONE hundred million Americans go to the polls Tuesday to elect a new president for the White House for the coming four years.

The American laymen are not the real voters in this election but rather those who carry out the organisation and financing of the campaigns of each of the candidates and those who dominate the economic and financial empires in the United States. The election is a battle between conflicting interests of two groups, each trying to establish its influence in the country at the expense of the other, the American people and the rest of the world.

The United States is a superpower, and whoever sits in the White House will certainly possess great powers to influence the course of world politics. For American citizens the situation is different. They pay the taxes and vote, no more no less. The citizens have been brainwashed by campaigns and the press and information media, and they are perplexed but they will vote and elect a president just the same.

Could re-elected Reagan redress the injustice?

By Musa Keilani

FEW SOBER thoughts occur to many Arabs when they hear about Reagan's landslide victory. The euphoria of re-election should not eclipse the tiny glimmer of hope which 169 million Arabs still have in the United States. Many people hope that the United States would not confine itself to be the biggest superpower, but it is hoped to be the greatest with the full connotation of greatness, to be politically impartial, to be militarily far-sighted, and to be humanely perceptive. It is hoped that a re-elected Reagan will be lib-

erated from the compromising need of lobby votes and power peddlers. Accordingly he will have as his role target the genuine interests of his country in the distant future and in the immediate present. It is hoped that a new re-elected president will be the incarnation of the noble principle laid by the founding fathers.

With a re-elected president, it is hoped Washington will become a true capital of civilised liberty, a capital which condemns terror rather than monopolises it, a capital which believes in honourable humane

democracy rather than sacrifice it at the altar of political opportunism. It is hoped to have in re-elected president enough strength to deal cleanly with the interests of the people, in broad day-light, rather than conspiring secretly against the people in collaboration with the "haw-kl's of mercenary traitors. A president who believes strongly in human civilisation saved, rather than liquidating it through short-sighted competition.

The true interests of the United States are to be found in

winning the friendship of 169 million Arabs with their immense mineral wealth, strategic location and diversified agricultural resources. Arabs hope to see American technology used in their countries to bring immense welfare for both peoples, rather than seeing New Jersey cannonballs destroying Lebanese villages or "smart" bombs decimating their children.

The Israeli factor in the U.S./Arab relationship was determined in the big losses the United States suffered, mora-

lly, globally, materially and future-wise. Inspite of temporary Arab divisions, the United States of Arabia will one day be a fact. The collective memory of our people will remember clearly who were the enemies and who were the true friends. This Middle Eastern area can prove to be a true Eden if the U.S. role is assumed by the integrity and sense of justice of a re-elected president, liberated from the need of the future lobby votes, and who has the genuine interests of his country as a target.

It is regrettable that the Reagan era so far witnessed invariable prejudice against Arabs. The strategic agreements with Israel made many Arabs feel the United States to be the real enemy. The Israeli nuclear threat, the F16's, and the cluster-bomb attacks have been associated in Arab mind with the United States taking sides with Israel. Could the hope be justified to have re-elected Reagan redress the injustices committed by President Reagan over the last four years?

Major shifts in Congress composition is unlikely

WITH just hours left until election results are announced, major shifts in the composition of Congress seem unlikely, according to analysts on Capitol Hill. While just a few months ago the Democrats spoke optimistically of taking the six seats from the Republicans needed to regain control of the Senate, analysts now believe that they will wind up a few seats short of their goal. In fact, Republican observers are confidently predicting that their party will be able to hold on to all of their seats at stake, and possibly even add a seat to their current 55-45 majority.

Of the 18 members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, two are retiring and seven are seeking reelection. Thus next year's committee could potentially be far different if all seven were in competitive races — but they're not. Senators Pell (D-R.I.), Biden (D-DE), Kassebaum (R-KS), and Pressler (R-SD) are all strong favourites for reelection.

Sen. Boschwitz (R-MN) was at first thought to be vulnerable, and pro-Israel political action committees responded by sinking more than \$100,000 in contributions into Boschwitz's campaign by early July with additional contributions still coming in. As the treasurer of one of these PACs has said, Sen. Boschwitz's reelection remains one of their "highest priorities."

Even more important to the pro-Israel lobby than Sen. Boschwitz's reelection is the defeat of two members of the Foreign Relations panel: Jesse Helms (R-NC) and Charles Percy (R-IL), the committee's chairman. Mr. Helms is battling Governor Jim Hunt in what will probably turn out to be the most expensive Senate race in the country's history, and pro-Israel PACs are doing their part to make it so. Helms has already contributed more than \$150,000 to defeat a senator who, frustrated with Israel's actions in Lebanon, suggested in 1983 that the United States might consider severing diplomatic relations with Israel. Ironically, another major reason the pro-Israel lobby wants to defeat Mr. Helms is the fact that Mr.

Helms would be next in line to become chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee if the Republicans retain control of the Senate and the pro-Israelis succeed in their goal of defeating Sen. Percy.

Close to \$200,000 has already been spent by pro-Israel PACs to defeat Sen. Percy — first in support of Tom Corcoran, Sen. Percy's conservative Republican challenger in the primary; and when that attempt failed, by supporting Congressman Paul Simon, Sen. Percy's Democratic opponent in November. Percy won his last race with only 53 per cent of the vote; this year he is regarded as an incumbent who is vulnerable.

Other Senate races of interest to Middle East observers include three attempts by pro-Israel Democratic congressmen to win seats now held by Republican incumbents — Tom Harkin faces Senator Roger Jepsen in Iowa; Nick D'Amours goes up against Senator Gordon Humphrey in New Hampshire; and Al Gore is fighting to take the seat of the retiring Republican majority leader Howard Baker in Tennessee. Gore is currently favoured, while Sen. D'Amours and Sen. Harkin are running close behind. If the Democrats have any chance to regain Senate control they will need victories here.

In Massachusetts, Arab-

American Ray Shamie 'founded the odds-makers with his successful run against former Attorney General Elliot Richardson for the Republican nomination. If Mr. Shamie goes on to win in November — a race in which he is definitely the underdog — he will join George Mitchell (D-ME) and James Abdnor (R-SD) as the country's third senator of Arab ancestry.

Meanwhile, Michigan's Carl Levin is widely considered to be the most vulnerable of the Senate Democrats up for reelection, but remains favoured in his race against former astronaut Jack F. Foy — Focus.

Mondale: Professional, pragmatic politician

By Michael Battye

WASHINGTON — At the zenith of a 35-year career as a professional pragmatic American politician, Walter Mondale decided to campaign for the presidency by telling what he saw as the unpleasant truth.

Mr. Mondale, the Democratic challenger, advocated tax increases as a major plank in his platform despite signs that this would severely damage his chances of unseating the widely popular 73-year-old Republican incumbent, Ronald Reagan.

It was a radical departure for Mr. Mondale, a small town boy of Norwegian stock from mid-western Minnesota who built his career on achieving the achievable.

"I have to live in the real world," he once said in explanation of a legislative compromise he agreed with conservatives in the Senate, where he built up a solid liberal record.

"He's not a political Don Quixote," said his friend Senator Tom Eagleton said of Mr. Mondale. "He's not going to tilt at a lot of windmills. He is a pre-eminently practical politician."

Opinion polls have forecast a landslide defeat for the Democratic candidate. But Mr. Mondale, 56, has won widespread respect during the campaign, even among those who would not vote for him.

The worse the situation looked, the better he performed. In the last few weeks of the 1984 presidential race, Mr. Mondale threw off the image of a dull orator and uninspired campaigner, drawing big crowds and enthusing them with blistering attacks on Mr. Reagan.

It was a long way from the start of his career in politics as a student

organiser during the 1948 campaign, when Democrat Harry Truman won a stunning upset victory over Thomas Dewey.

Later, with time off to do his military service and complete law school, he won his political spurs as a campaign manager.

Mr. Mondale was appointed to his first political office in 1960, when he was made chief law officer of Minnesota. He promptly became a household name in the state with his pursuit of swindlers who bilked millions of dollars from a charity for crippled children.

After winning re-election to the post, he was appointed to the U.S. Senate to replace his mentor Hubert Humphrey, chosen as running mate to President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

It was in the Senate, to which he was re-elected twice, that Mr. Mondale built his reputation as a pragmatic liberal, never out on a limb on any issue.

He acquired the respect of even conservative opponents while building his liberal record, particularly on civil rights.

In 1974, Mr. Mondale thought hard about pursuing the Democratic nomination to run against President Gerald Ford but pulled out early, telling his supporters he found the long drawn-out battle distasteful.

A career that could then have disappeared into limbo was rescued by Jimmy Carter, who chose Mr. Mondale as his running mate in the successful Democratic campaign that followed.

Mr. Mondale was widely credited with turning the vice presidency from a largely ceremonial post into a serious political role.

He acquired an office for the vice president in the White House for the first time, an important symbolic move, and a major role in



formulating policy.

He won praise for his central role in bringing about the Camp David accords.

Mr. Mondale and Carter were defeated in 1980 by Mr. Reagan and Vice President George Bush, who promised a brighter future after what they called the failures of the Carter years.

Mr. Reagan, running for a second and last term in 1984, tried to brand Mr. Mondale as a weak-kneed liberal held captive by special interest groups. Mr. Mondale made no apologies for supporting trades unions and civil rights, saying these were the proper interests

of his party.

Mr. Mondale made his major issues tax increases to help cut massive federal budget deficits and arms control. "My key objectives are to lead our nation in a way that the world becomes safer," he said in one interview.

Mr. Mondale was born in Ceylon, Minnesota, on Jan. 5, 1928, the second son of a Methodist preacher, Theodore, a second-generation immigrant who passionately believed that government's major responsibility was to eradicate injustice. Mr. Mondale married Joan Adams in 1955 and they have three children.

Peso devaluation hits Chile's poor

The Chilean peso underwent a devaluation last month which, though inevitable, will result in price rises that could lead to further political discontent among the poor. Mary Helen Spooner reports.

SANTIAGO — The optimistic economic predictions made by Chilean officials early this year have now faded into bitter memory as the country reels from the consequences of last month's devaluation. The wave of price increases is threatening to cause more political trouble for Gen. Augusto Pinochet's already embattled regime.

Opposition trade unions are now calling for a general strike to demand higher salaries and a freeze on the price of basic necessities. Prospects for the success of such a strike are uncertain, but the economic pinch on Chile's working class arising from the 23.6 per cent devaluation of the peso may give labour groups just the backing they need.

Few knowledgeable Chileans questioned the need for the devaluation and some economists say it was insufficient. Mr. Luis Escobar, the finance minister, was recently compelled to deny persistent rumours of an additional devaluation and the peso began to decline on Chile's legal parallel market from 120 to the U.S. dollar to 130.

The government appears to have postponed the devaluation for as long as possible while searching for alternatives to an inevitably unpopular move. Chile is about to begin negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new standby accord as it seeks to reschedule \$7.2 billion in foreign debt falling due over the next three years.

Mr. Escobar said the IMF had issued a "technical opinion" that a devaluation was necessary, and when work began on next year's fiscal budget the evident revenue shortfall could no longer be avoided.

"The country has had to take foul-tasting medicine in order to face next year," Mr. Escobar said. "We had two alternatives: either increase revenues or decrease spending, and the devaluation covers them both."

including an unexplained increase in luxury items. According to central bank figures, Chile spent \$1.4 million alone on imported television sets in July.

Official statements on the devaluation and its repercussions have not always been consistent. Mr. Modesto Collados, the economy minister, said that public sector workers on low salaries would receive a compensatory bonus of 400 pesos (\$3.45) per month.

But Mr. Escobar, at the Washington IMF meeting, said that the authorities were not planning to take any precipitous steps in the wake of the devaluation. They also made contradictory remarks over whether or not additional aid packages were under study.

Both officials have predicted that Chile's consumer price index for this year would not rise by more than 20 per cent, but the director of the government's National Statistical Institute has said this goal would be difficult to achieve.

The inflation rate for the first nine months of the year was reported at 10.9 per cent, but this does not reflect the impact of the devaluation.

The 400 peso monthly subsidy

has pleased neither the IMF nor the low income groups it was aimed at helping. Even the most pro-government political groups and trade unions have urged the regime to make immediate readjustments in salaries, which Mr. Escobar says will not be undertaken till after the beginning of next year. Prices of basic food items have increased by as much as 37 per cent while salaries remain frozen.

One survey done in Santiago calculates that the cost of living for poor Chileans rose by 16 per cent last month, and a family of five now needs at least 11,000 pesos per month.

The minimum monthly wage remains around 6,000 pesos per month, with at least eight per cent of the workforce earning between 2,000 and 4,000 pesos per month in government work projects for the unemployed.

The resulting squeeze has made many Chileans feel they have less to lose than ever by taking part in anti-government activity, including violence. A Catholic priest working in a west Santiago slum put it this way: "The poor can't even afford bread at 70 pesos a kilo now." — Financial Times news feature.

Britain's largest public ownership is for sale

By Brian Cathcart

LONDON — The British government will carry out the largest share issue ever seen when it sells just over half the state telephone company on world stock markets later this month.

Expected to raise more than 3.5 billion sterling (\$4.25 billion), the share flotation is by far the most ambitious move of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's campaign to roll back the frontiers of state ownership in Britain.

British Telecom (BT), until now entirely state-owned, is the world's fourth-largest telecommunications firm and will become the biggest employer in Britain after the government.

So big is the undertaking of selling it that the burden is being spread internationally, with partial flotations likely on stock markets in the United States, Canada and Japan.

A BT roadshow is touring other world financial centres in an attempt to persuade investors to apply when the offer opens in the second half of this month. In Britain, buyers are being courted by an unprecedented national advertising campaign.

It is the latest in a line of state interests sold into private hands since Mrs. Thatcher's Conservatives took office in 1979, from North Sea oil firms and car-maker Jaguar to British aerospace and communications firm Cable and Wireless.

Other sales planned after the flotation of 50.2 per cent of BT include British Airways and aero-engine maker Rolls-Royce. It is all part of the Conservatives' aim to create a property-owning, share-owning Britain in which everyone has a vested interest in industrial success and labour stability.

The government believes private ownership is more efficient, with managers and workers giving better value for money when they are deprived of the cushion of public funds and obliged to satisfy their shareholders.

Privatisation, as it is called, also has the happy effect of filling state coffers in lean times.

The opposition Labour Party, ideologically committed to wider state ownership, has fought the programme tooth and nail, bringing particular vigour to the BT battle under the slogan "public service not private profit".

Labour has sworn to re-nationalise the telephone system if it returns to office.

After one serious setback in Parliament, and despite opposition from telecommunications trade unions, the government eventually won through. But ministers' worries did not end there.

Sell-offs in an unpredictable stock market have proved fraught with hazards. On two occasions the government has been accused of giving away assets by pitching its price too low, and once it set the price too high and found hardly any takers.

With British Telecom it has bent over backwards to ensure that all the shares will be taken up. Not only has there been a huge promotion campaign at home and

abroad, but the terms of subscription are geared to make the deal as alluring as possible.

Enticements include discount vouchers to set against phone bills, free bonus shares after three years and a staggering of the purchase price over three stages.

The Sunday Times newspaper said the offer was "the nearest thing most of us will ever see to something for nothing".

The signs are, that this generosity is paying off. BT says its surveys indicate that one in four adult Britons is considering buying.

What attracts them is the investor's dream — a relatively cheap slice of a successful, high-technology company which has a virtual monopoly of a growing market.

Telecom's profit picture is impressive, with pre-tax earnings officially forecast to rise 36 per cent to 1.35 billion sterling (\$1.63 billion) in 1984/85.

BT's market domination is almost total, with only one other firm, Mercury, licensed to provide a telephone service. Barely in operation, Mercury is not expected to capture much more than five per cent of the domestic and transatlantic market.

This domination has prompted some Conservatives to criticise the company for failing to break up the company and create a fully competitive telephone market in Britain, a move they say would have benefited the customer.

The government's answer is to point to changes brought about in BT by the approach of privatisation.

A company formerly run along cumbersome civil service lines has been revitalised, they say. The workforce of 240,000 has been trimmed, the management reorganised, modernisation of equipment has been accelerated and waiting lists for telephones have been slashed.

The offer price for BT shares will be fixed on Nov. 15, with applications closing on Nov. 28 and dealing beginning a few days later.

Since 1979 the British government has privatised assets worth 3.98 billion sterling (\$4.81 billion). Major sales have included (with sums raised in million sterling followed by conversion to million dollars at current rates in brackets):

British Petroleum	827 (1,000)
British Aerospace	43 (52)
Cable and Wireless	445 (538)
Associated Ports	36 (116)
Britoil	627 (757)
Enterprise Oil	389 (469)
Jaguar	297 (357)

Companies listed for future privatisation include: British Airways, British Shipbuilders, ship division, parts of British Steel, British Leyland, Rolls-Royce (aero-engine), Short Brothers (aeroplane) and some airports.

The Guinness Book of Records credits the British Telecom and Cable and Wireless sales as the present record for the world's largest share issue for 1979, valued at \$1.37 billion.

New pioneers test multi-national family life in Antarctica

By Richard Boudreaux
Associated Press

LIEUTENANT MARSH AIR BASE, Antarctica — In the evening sunlight, pioneers in a new polar venture grilling 120 lamb steaks over a charcoal fire on the Antarctic ice and served hot wine to guests of seven nationalities.

The occasion was Columbus Day (Oct. 12), observed throughout the Americas as the day Europeans discovered the New World. Inside the huge metal garage where the celebration was under way, a 10-piece band called the Lichens Strummed South American folk music while couples whirling handkerchiefs danced the cueca and children wheeled around on tricycles.

One of the hosts, a Chilean doctor named German Camacho, got up and toasted the discovery of America, saying what a brave example Columbus had set "for those of us who continue his exploration."

But the feast at this comfortable Chilean outpost, attended by air force wives and children, visiting

scientists and tourists, was another sign that the heroic age of inter-polar exploration is over. Seventy-three years after Roald Amundsen of Norway reached the South Pole by dog sled, Antarctica is almost fully mapped.

Today's pioneers are exploring the psychological and logistical frontiers of everyday community life on the white continent. Their experience is supposed to help Chile plan an international gateway city for the coming era of mining and tourism while strengthening its claim to a slice of Antarctic territory.

Two pilots and four civilians in the air force, their wives and six small children volunteered to live, work and go to school for two years in a cluster of white aid orange pre-fab houses on King George Island. Situated off the tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, it is similar to Iceland in climate and proximity to the pole.

"This is an act of patriotism, not a flag-waving stunt," Camacho, 42, said in an interview. "We are not doing this to be famous. We are here to learn how to make life easier for future settlers. This is

important for our country."

The young colony survived an unusually mild first winter, with a low temperature of minus 17C degrees. Now it awaits the births of Chile's first native Antarcticans to three of the women this austral summer and the coming of seven more families next March.

Thanks to a year-round landing strip, mail and fresh produce arrive monthly on Hercules C-130 of lights from the Chilean mainland 2 1/2 hours away. World news picked up by short-wave radio is read each night on closed-circuit television, followed by a children's bedtime story from a penguin hand-puppet.

But some colonists spoke openly, to a recent visitor, of how the relative isolation and military discipline had wrought depression and discord. Some tension eased after a wives' rebellion forced the base commander to relax standards for volunteer work at the school, post office and library. But some families still avoid each other.

"A lot is missing from normal life, especially for the children," said Ana Maria Martind de Cam-

acho, the doctor's wife, who has two sons here and is expecting another child. "In the real world, they have a lot more playmates, they have grandparents."

She quickly added: "Our problems are like any small town's. We're working them out. Psychologically, we were prepared for far worse."

If all goes as planned, the village will have 20 families, a supermarket and a gymnasium in 1986, and regular tourist business at its 40-room lodge.

"This is going to be our Antarctic city," said retired Gen. Javier Lopetegui, the air force commander's chief adviser on polar matters.

The effort is unusual. While the United States treats Antarctica as a pristine laboratory for scientific research, and other nations, like Japan, rush to fish and find oil off its shores, only Chile and Argentina are populating it with families.

Both countries claim wedges of the continent that overlap in the peninsula area, where Chile has three year-round bases and Argentina nine. At one base, Arg-

entina has maintained up to eight families a year since 1977 in a publicised assertion of its sovereignty.

The colonising by Chile, poorest of the 13 Antarctic Treaty signers, "is more practical than that," Mr. Lopetegui said in an interview here.

All territorial claims, by Chile and six other nations, were suspended at least 30 years by the 1961 treaty, which set aside Antarctica for peaceful purposes.

But the treaty nations are negotiating an agreement to permit and regulate mining.

"In a few years, we could have something like an Alaska gold rush here," Mr. Lopetegui said. "By that time, there ought to be a service industry — shops, a longer air strip and an air taxi shuttle for mining expeditions from all over the world. This will mean employment for a lot of Chileans."

Already the air base is the arrival point for half the research expeditions to Antarctica, welcoming a stream of German, Argentine, British, U.S., Japanese and Polish scientists who swell its year-round population of 48 to more than 300 in the summer.

Chile provides weather forecasting and mail service for nearby U.S., Polish, British and Soviet bases.

To one accustomed to the Chilean government's hostile anti-Communism, the most striking sign of this cooperation is the bearing exchanged at frequent social gatherings between the Chileans and their Soviet neighbours at the Bellingshausen scientific station 200 metres away. The two countries broke diplomatic relations after the armed forces deposed Chile's elected Marxist president Allende in a bloody coup in 1973.

The Soviet scientists share a fresh water reservoir with the Chileans and invite them over for Sauna baths.

"In this harsh environment, we cannot afford to bring our political differences down here," said Capt. Daniel Contreras, the Chilean base commander, who covers his head with a black fur Czapka given by his Soviet counterpart.

So proud are the Chileans of this "Antarctic spirit" that the Soviet and Polish bases got equal time with gentoo penguins and elephant seals on the three-day

itinerary they arranged last month for 33 tourists from Brazil, Chile and the United States.

Chilean President Augusto Pinochet gave the go-ahead for tourist flights to the base after inaugurating the settlement project last April. The October excursion, organised by a U.S. travel company and a Chilean airline, was believed to be the first to provide overnight tourist accommodations anywhere in Antarctica.

The prospect of such commercial ventures is not entirely welcomed by scientists, who have long held de facto title to the continent, but they seem resigned to it.

"We think it's dangerous and disruptive to fly so many tourists around in helicopters," said Hans-Ulrich Peter, a University of Berlin ornithologist. "They will scare the penguins away. We have seen this happen in other places in Antarctica."

But we cannot tell this to the Chileans," he said, sipping wine at the Columbus Day feast. "They are military. They have their national interest in mind. Tourism means money for their country."

'Executive disease' strikes Africa

High blood pressure and associated heart diseases are reaching alarming proportions throughout Africa, where expensive cardiac treatment units are confined to a few major cities.

By R.C. Sabatier

LONDON — High blood pressure and its effects — cerebral strokes and heart failure — are killing an increasing number of Africans.

The Masai herdsmen of Kenya and the Kalahari bushmen of southern Africa, whose lifestyles are the opposites of desk-bound, hard-driving, high-living corporate employees, are virtually immune to high blood pressure as long as they stay in the countryside. But once they move to the city, they are just as prone to develop the "executive disease" as any Nigerian businessman.

City life seems to encourage changes in the diet and lifestyle of Africans, which encourage blood pressure abnormalities and heart disease. By the year 2000, more than 60 per cent of all Africans will live in cities, where such diseases are likely to become the number one killer.

Dr. Silas Dodu, head of the World Health Organisation's Cardiovascular Diseases Unit, recently expressed concern about emerging trends in heart diseases in developing countries. Singapore's pattern holds important lessons for Africa.

"In 1948, life expectancy at birth in Singapore was less than 50 years, and the leading causes of death were tuberculosis and other infectious diseases," according to Dr. Dodu. "Today, that country has achieved a life expectancy of 71 years, and cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of death."

He predicted that unless preventive measures were taken, high blood pressure — or "hypertension" — would reach the epidemic proportions in Africa which a number of industrialised countries have already attained. In Britain, for example, heart disease is the

chief cause of premature death, killing about 180,000 people each year.

For Africans, the threat of heart disease is particularly worrying. "Though hypertension is regarded as a disease of all people, it is known to be more common and its effects more severe in the black race," according to Dr. V.O. Oviassu, head of the Medical Department of Nigeria's Benin University. The explanation for this may be that black people are genetically predisposed to develop the disease.

A number of prominent American blacks have been struck by heart attacks while less than 40 years old. When the tennis star, Arthur Ashe suffered a heart attack less than two years after winning the 1975 men's singles title at Wimbledon, black Americans realised that not even a top athlete was immune.

Less than 50 years ago, high blood pressure was virtually unknown among Africans. So rare were hypertensive Africans that surveys failed to find any. Now raised blood pressure readings are common. Why the change?

One of the chief culprits seems to be an increase in salt intake. In the past, a typical East African rural diet consisted of home-grown, lightly processed maize, millet, beans, plantains, sweet potatoes and leafy green vegetables. Some tribes, like the Kikuyu in Kenya, made a salt substitute by burning swamp plants.

As salt became available in shops, consumption increased, and the incidence of hypertension shot up. Where salted food is still uncommon, as in the parts of northern Botswana inhabited by Kung bushmen, blood pressure remains low throughout life. The Kung must walk 50 kilometres (30 miles) to the Namibian border for their salt.

The Samburu of Kenya exhibit a similar degree of cardiovascular fitness on their traditional diet of milk, blood and meat. On joining the Kenyan army, they begin to eat salted, processed foods. Studies in the early 1970's showed that the blood pressure of Samburu men increased progressively for each year they spent in the army.

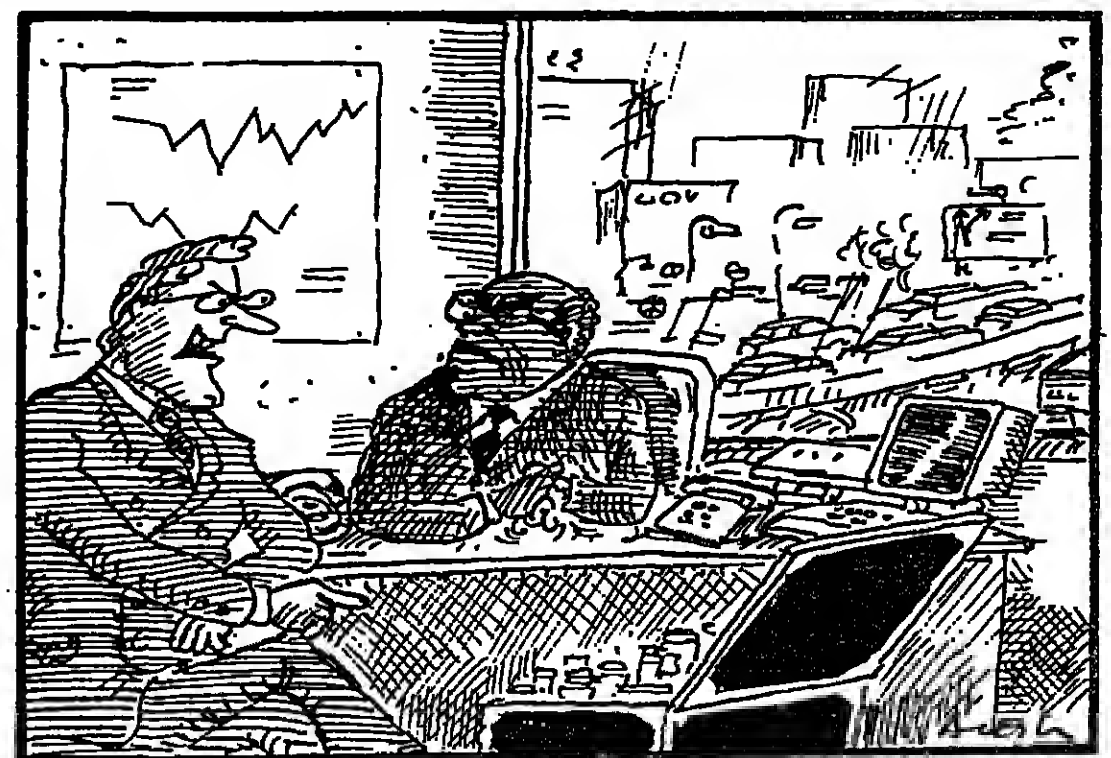
Urban living, with its combination of high stress and low physical activity, is also a prime cause of hypertension. But it is not only the relatively affluent inhabitants of Lagos, Nairobi, Dar es Salaam or Harare who are increasingly likely to die from cardiovascular disorders.

A 1982 study among urban Zulus in South Africa demonstrated that social factors may predispose certain populations to high blood pressure. The poorer the people, and the more stressful

their living conditions, the more likely they were to suffer hypertension.

Most heart specialists agree that hypertension can be prevented through the maintenance of a high fibre, low salt diet and a physically active lifestyle. WHO is asking developing countries to educate their people about this fact. But governments "tend not to be interested in supporting long-term investments in health," says Dr. Dodu.

The alternatives to prevention are drugs and high-technology heart surgery. With the full cost of a coronary by-pass operation running around \$15,000, African nations cannot afford an epidemic of cardiovascular illness. North Americans are successfully combating the disease by changing their diet and exercising. Will Africans learn to do likewise, before it is too late? — Earthscan feature.



"Now that you've bought all our wonderful Western technology, perhaps you'd like to buy these wonder drugs to cure the hypertension."

Sicilians got used to buying Mafia 'protection'

By Andrew Hurst
Reuters

PALERMO — For the Mafia extortion is a source of wealth, for the average Sicilian a scourge borne with dignity. But for the few who refuse to pay it can mean fear, a feeling of acute insecurity and even death.

"Il Pizzo", as protection money is known in Sicily, is the price most Sicilian shopkeepers and small businessmen are prepared to pay for a quiet life.

"The principle is rather similar to the blood-letting carried out by medical practitioners on patients in the middle ages," says Francesco Vergara, an employee at Palermo's city hall. "Just as doctors thought that by taking away some of your blood they could cure you of disease, the Mafia likes to give the impression that by pocketing some of your money, but not too much, they can make life easier for you."

After lengthy negotiations, often over the phone, most businessmen give in to their anonymous tormentors and agree on

an amount, usually paid in monthly instalments, officials say.

The figure is worked out in proportion to the turnover of a business and is never so excessive as to threaten its survival, since bankruptcy would mean an end to a valuable source of income for the Mafia.

Some businessmen will give their enterprises an outward appearance of penury to put off the attentions of the Mafia.

One Sicilian woman said she recently asked a friend, who ran a thriving spare-parts business, why he did not install air conditioning. "You must be joking, if I did that the Mafia would be round like a shot."

Officials in Palermo believe the vast majority of shops and businesses in the Sicilian capital pay protection money, although few would ever admit publicly to doing so.

A local shopkeepers' association made an unsuccessful attempt recently to assess how many of its members were paying "Il Pizzo" by asking them to complete a circular and return it un-

knownly. Almost nobody replied.

Payment of protection money usually insures a businessman against theft since extortion in any neighbourhood always requires the approval of the local Mafia boss.

Police believe many petty criminals, some of them teenagers, have met their deaths after straying into "protected territory" and committing robberies.

Retribution is meted out summarily and with chilling brutality, often by the hideous method of "incapricciamento" whereby victims are trussed up like chickens in such a way that they slowly strangle themselves.

Refusal by a businessman to pay "Il Pizzo" can mean constant robberies and intimidation and, occasionally, the final sanction — murder.

Maria Teresa, a language instructor at Palermo University, says her family has paid a high price because of its refusal ever to pay protection money.

Maria Teresa's family owns a motorcycle store in central Pal-

ermo. "Nine years ago we received this anonymous call asking for money," she said. "We immediately informed the police, who tapped our phones and told us to string out negotiations as long as possible."

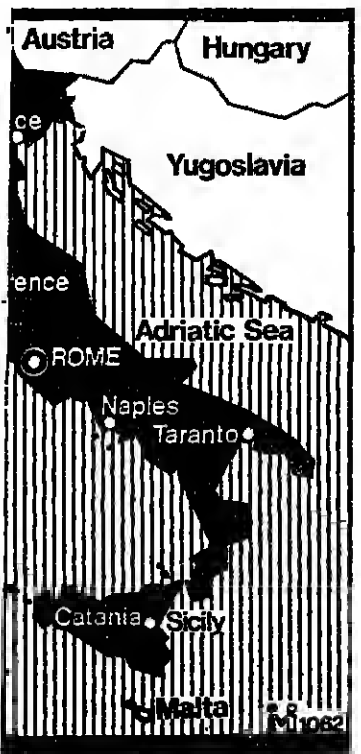
"They always gave the impression of knowing exactly what everybody in our family was up to. They do it to make you feel they have complete control over you," she said.

Threats were followed by action. One night a bomb ripped through the store, destroying two floors.

The gang was eventually caught and the ringleaders turned out to be two nightwatchmen, but recently, she says, the anonymous phone calls have resumed.

Police admit that, while they have made major progress in breaking up drug trafficking rings, by far the biggest source of Mafia income, protection rackets continue to thrive unabated.

"People are not so much bound by omertà (the code of silence), they are just too damned scared to



cooperate," an officer in the para-military carabinieri said.

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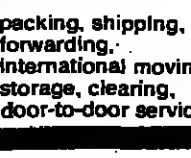
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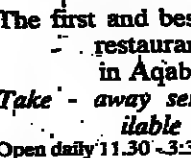
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First-ever handicapped games in Jordan to be held next week

By P.V. Vivekanand
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The handicapped people in Jordan will have their first-ever chance to participate in a sports tournament for the disabled held in the Kingdom and match their skills with a 25-member team from Sweden on Nov. 12, 13 and 14.

The event, organised by the Jordan Federation of Sports for the Handicapped (JFSH) in cooperation with the University of Jordan, will also coincide with celebrations marking the birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein which falls on Nov. 14.

The Swedish team, which won 153 medals at the 1984 Olympic Games for the Disabled, includes handicapped athletes in archery, table tennis, track and field events, weight lifting and wheelchair basketball.

The games are scheduled to be held at the University of Jordan stadium on the first day, the Yarmouk University campus on the second and to climax on Nov. 14 at the same venue as the opening day.

"This is a chance for our Swedish handicapped team to show what we can do," according to Bjorn Corestav, manager of the Swedish team, "and we hope we can be a source of inspiration to the people of Jordan."

Inspiration is the key word behind the organisation of the games, the first to be held in the Kingdom.

The JFSH, a voluntary organisation established in 1981, has been active ever since in helping the handicapped in Jordan to lead

a more independent life, says Dr. Fawzi Daoud, member of the federation's board of directors and chairman of its information committee.

The federation, which depends on voluntary contributions from both the government as well as private individuals, is headed by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and is in fact a source of great help to the handicapped in Jordan.

Almost all Jordanian associations which care for the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded and blind are members of the federation which organises various sports activities exclusively for the disabled.

One of the immediate targets of the federation is to set up a fully-equipped sports centre for the handicapped, Dr. Daoud said. The JFSH has already been allotted a plot of land near the Sports City by the Ministry of Youth and an agreement was signed Monday between the federation and Elba House, manufacturers of prefabricated buildings, to build a centre on the 1827-metre land.

The total cost of the centre, which will house recreation rooms, a big hall for indoor games and equipment to offer physical



Dr. Fawzi Daoud

exercises and train the handicapped in sports, is estimated at JD 125,000, Dr. Daoud said.

The JFSH is currently using facilities available at the Al Hussein Society for the Physically Handicapped for its various activities and will shift to the new centre once the first stage of the project has been completed.

The second phase of the project, will house expanded training equipment as well as facilities for foreign guests of the federation who will include coaches and trainees for the physically handicapped.

About 100 physically handicapped people in Jordan actively take part in the various activities organised by the federation and Dr. Daoud said the number is expected to go up to 500 to 600 with the completion of the project. "The new centre will be a place

where the physically handicapped will be offered recreation facilities, equipment for exercises, and sports training," he said. "It will be the first-ever of its kind in the Kingdom," he added.

Dr. Daoud praised the "most active" efforts of Prince Ra'd and Princess Majda to enhance the activities of the JFSH and said the federation has not yet been faced with any real financial problems due to the support and efforts extended by the Chief Chamberlain and his wife.

The Swedish team is expected to arrive on Nov. 10 and its members will be taken on a tour to the Dead Sea, Jerash and Amman and its suburbs, Dr. Daoud said. The visit of the Swedes is of added significance, he said, because it will be the first-ever visit by a handicapped sports team to Jordan.

Sweden is one of the European countries which enjoys a good reputation for its health care in general and offers a wide range of services for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped. Services such as special treatments, technical aids and devices and consultancy are available in all parts of the Scandinavian country. It is estimated that there are more than 50,000 handicapped sports athletes in Sweden today.

Various Swedish firms, at the forefront of which is the Swedish health care company, LIC, and the Swedish Trade Council are sponsoring the visit of the team to Jordan. Also, during the sports tournament LIC will display a range of products exclusively manufactured in Sweden for use by the physically handicapped.

Budd stays out of race

CAPE TOWN (R) — Track star Zola Budd has decided not to run in a South African race that would have banished her from international athletics, a spokesman for the race organisers said Tuesday.

Nelis Swart, secretary of the Stellenbosch University Athletics Union which is organising the event on Saturday, told a press conference Budd's name was not on the list of runners.

"We had organised a women's 3,000 metres, but I can assure you Zola will not be in action. She must have had a re-think on her future," he said.

Budd, 18, who was swiftly and controversially granted British citizenship in order to compete in the Los Angeles Olympics, last week decided to stay in her native South Africa.

Swart did not say whether her absence from the field at the weekend meant she was keeping open an option to resume her international career.

A senior British athletics official arrived Monday to brief Budd on the consequences of participation in the race. Speculation mounted, after her announcement last week, that she might ask to be reinstated as a South African citizen.

Reports here said Budd, who has evidently found life away from her small farm difficult, could probably enjoy both worlds by retaining her British nationality while staying at home.

Possession of a British passport would enable her to compete in international meeting while living somewhere she has said she prefers.

Coetzee to defend title

PANAMA CITY (R) — World Boxing Association (WBA) heavyweight champion Gerrie Coetzee of South Africa will defend his title against Greg Page of the United States in South Africa on Dec. 1, WBA officials said Tuesday.

Britain's Colin Jones will challenge WBA welterweight champion Don Curry of the United States in January at a location still to be decided, Elias Cordova, president of the WBA's championship committee added.

Soviets, N.Korea press for move of Olympics site, NOC delegates say

MEXICO CITY (R) — The Soviet Union and North Korea are pressing for a relocation of the 1988 summer Olympics from South Korea, delegates at a meeting of 158 National Olympic Committees said Monday.

The Soviets, who led a 15-nation boycott of the Los Angeles Games, are unhappy about anti-communist South Korea as a host nation and have refused to say whether they will attend the Seoul games.

Closely allied to the United States, South Korea is not recognised by the East bloc.

"The North Koreans, probably on urging from the Soviets, are lobbying here for the games to be moved in 1988," one delegate told Reuters at a meeting of the Association of National Olympic

Committees (ANOC). But an official in the Soviet delegation denied Moscow was seeking a new site. "Seoul has been chosen. We have nothing to say about that," he said.

Asked whether the Soviet Union would attend at Seoul, he said, "We will make our decision known at the proper time."

The week-long meeting here of all 158 ANOC member nations is charged with finding measures to prevent future boycotts. International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch has said the top Olympic body will not move the games from Seoul. On arrival here to preside an IOC meeting later in the week, he also rejected proposals for creating a permanent Olympic site.

"Every country has the right to be host to the Olympic Games," he told reporters. "The IOC will not succumb to the political pressure to create a permanent site."

A proposal to move certain finals in Seoul to early morning hours in order to ensure a more lucrative contract for U.S. television rights was being hotly debated, delegates said.

"Both the Koreans and the ABC television people want this so it's now just a question of how important money is," an African delegate told Reuters.

The ABC network has offered \$750 million if finals were held in the morning to coincide with peak viewing hours, but would only pay \$250 million if the programmes stayed unchanged, Italian athletics sources have said.

McEnroe out of London Grand Prix

LONDON (R) — John McEnroe, winner of the London Tennis Grand Prix five times in the last six years, misses this year's tournament starting Tuesday because of a 21-day suspension following his behaviour in Stockholm over the weekend.

The American was fined \$2,100 on Sunday for insulting the umpire and scattering bottles and cups from a court-side table during his Scandinavian Grand Prix semifinal against Anders Jarryd of Sweden.

The fine took him over the \$7,500 limit resulting in automatic suspension from all tournaments for three weeks or only Grand Prix tournaments for 42 days. He had the right to appeal against the fine before the start of the \$250,000 London event.

Tournament director Len Owen received a telephone call from John McEnroe Sr. in New York at 0100 GMT Tuesday informing him of his son's decision to miss the indoor event at Wembley, a statement from the organisers said.

"He said that his son had decided not to appeal against the fine imposed in Stockholm in order that he be free of the suspension in time for the Australian Open from November 26 to December 9 and the Davis Cup final on December 16-18," the statement said.

McEnroe Sr. said his son had decided to miss the London Grand Prix, a tournament in Antwerp and Rome special events in Australia because he wanted to keep his Grand Slam hopes alive and to play for his country in the Davis Cup final.

McEnroe said in Stockholm Monday that he thought the Grand Slam of the Wimbledon championship and the French, U.S. and Australian Opens should be won in one year so he had already lost his chance of winning it this year.

He was beaten by rival Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the final of the French Open in June.

Owen said: "It's very disappointing, but if I was faced with the same decision, I think I would come up with the same answer." Under Men's International Professional Tennis Council rules, two seeds or more must pull out of a tournament after the draw to allow a re-draw, so McEnroe's absence means the draw is now heavily weighted at the bottom.

Second seed Jimmy Connors of the United States and third seeded Lendl are both in the lower half and scheduled to meet in the semifinal round.

McEnroe's place will be taken by Brazilian Joao Soares, a "Lucky loser" from last year's qualifying tournament.

Grand Prix supervisor Kendall Ferrar, the American who was in charge of the Stockholm event, was full of sympathy for McEnroe when he arrived at Wembley Tuesday.

"I think John is a very tormented young man," said Ferrar, who imposed the Stockholm fine. "He likes to be liked and it upsets him when he isn't, he's trying very hard to clean up his act." When asked if he thought McEnroe could improve his image, Ferrar replied: "He'd like to, he hopes to, and he might in the end."

Black Knight wins Melbourne Cup

MELBOURNE (R) — Black Knight won the \$400,000 Melbourne Cup horse race Tuesday, romping away from Chagamar and Mapperley Heights.

The five-year-old gelding finished strongly over the final stages of the 3,200 metre (two mile) race

at the Flemington race track to beat 18 other starters.

Black Knight, ridden by Peter Cook, pounced in the straight to win by two-and-a-half lengths from the tiring Chagamar with the fast-finishing Mapperley Heights a head away third.

13th consecutive draw in world chess

MOSCOW (R) — World chess champion Anatoly Karpov and challenger Garry Kasparov agreed to a draw Monday night, the 13th consecutive one in their title match.

The draw came after 20 moves and three hours of play. Chess experts said Kasparov, playing white, had an early advantage but that strong defence by the champion evened the position.

International Chess Federation (FIDE) officials said the next game would be on Friday, two days later than scheduled, to avoid clashing with the November 7 public holiday commemorating the 1917 Russian revolution.

Kasparov, still seeking his first win, opened with the Catalan system Monday, preventing Karpov from using his favourite defence, the queen's Indian.

Officials expected to check Lisbon marathon course

LISBON (R) — Officials are expected to check the course of Saturday's Lisbon marathon Wednesday after a chorus of complaints from athletes and commentators.

Little-known Portuguese runner Cidilio Caetano equalled the world best mark of two hours eight minutes five seconds for the 42,195 metres race and many

other runners ran times far faster than their previous best marks.

But athletes and sports commentators were severely critical afterwards because of the lack of proper course markings and what they said was poor organisation.

Several runners in the half-marathon staged at the same time ran 1,000 metres further than their colleagues.

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TIME

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More British mineworkers return to work, NCB says

LONDON (R) — A steady trickle back to work in Britain's strike-bound coalfields continued Tuesday following the collapse of peace talks last week and offers of cash bonuses from the employers, the state-run National Coal Board (NCB).

The board said more than 1,150 strikers had returned to work Monday and Tuesday, taking the total who have drifted back since the strike began eight months ago to around 7,000.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), which is fighting board plans to shut loss-making pits, dismissed the trend as insignificant saying around three quarters of Britain's 180,000 miners were still on strike.

A board spokesman said some 380 miners crossed picket lines Tuesday adding to Monday's 800, a record figure which the government hailed as a sign that the strike was crumbling.

Some NUM leaders admit to flagging morale among the strikers but publicly the union leadership remains defiant.

A special national conference of miners' representatives Monday voted overwhelmingly to fight on and in Scotland Tuesday the union holds the first of five nationwide rallies designed to boost morale and strengthen support for the strike.

In a financial blow to the striking miners, the Irish high court said Monday it had frozen assets of £2.8 million (\$3.5 million) deposited in an Irish bank by the union to avoid them being seized.

The union plans to contest the order Tuesday.

A London court ordered the seizure of the assets after the union failed to pay a fine imposed for rejecting a court ruling that the strike did not have official legal status and that they should not threaten to discipline strike breakers.

Accountants acting for the court traced the funds to a Dublin bank where they had apparently been moved in a bid to escape seizure.

Miners' leader Mr. Arthur Scargill, who says only unsafe or exhausted pits should close, is pledged to fight on through the winter.

The Conservative government, which is solidly behind the coal board, says it has enough coal stockpiled at power stations to survive the winter without power cuts.

Meanwhile, new British laws aimed at regulating labour unions will be tested when carmaker Austin Rover asks the courts to call off a strike by its 28,000 workers.

The workforce at the state-owned company, a division of British Leyland, walked out Monday to press their case for a 20 per cent pay rise.

The strike was approved by the traditional procedure of a show of hands at mass meetings of workers, but the company has invoked new legislation introduced by the Conservative government which requires secret ballots before strikes.

Austin Rover is expected to apply Tuesday for a court order nullifying all nine trade unions involved to withdraw their strike calls and hold a secret ballot.

Managers say a majority of workers oppose the strike and that the mass meetings did not give a representative verdict. The company has offered a 10 per cent pay rise over two years.

The Austin Rover strike is the latest development in a wave of labour unrest sweeping the British car industry.

At luxury carmaker Jaguar, floated off from the Leyland group in August, 7,000 workers have been on strike for higher pay since Nov. 1.

At Vauxhall, the British arm of the American giant General Motors, 15,000 workers struck for two weeks last month over a pay claim.

Indian minister dampens fears regarding economy

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian economy is fast returning to normal after the wave of anti-Sikh riots following the assassination of Indira Gandhi, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Tuesday.

Mr. Mukherjee told Reuters the new government headed by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi would continue the economic policies of his mother's administration, including the raising of foreign commercial loans.

"I don't visualise any difficulty in raising loans and don't expect the assassination will have any impact on the attitude of foreign banks," he said.

He strongly denied press reports that the assassination and the subsequent violence, in which about 900 people were killed, had made foreign bankers panic.

India is raising a further \$600 million in the present financial year, on top of earlier loans, to finance oil exploration and purchases of commercial aircraft.

Foreign bankers told Reuters that India's ability to repay loans had not been affected by the violence.

Mr. Mukherjee said a consortium led by Chase Manhattan Asia Monday finally completed the raising of a \$300 million loan for a giant public sector aluminium project.

An executive of an American bank in New Delhi said that India's economic rating with foreign banks had not been affected, but its political stability rating — another factor in deciding on loans — would slip slightly, at least for a few months.

All the bankers interviewed said the smooth succession of power to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and the retention of almost the same cabinet as his mother had done.

U.S. regulators lower Argentine loans rating

WASHINGTON (R) — American bank regulators have downgraded the credit rating of some of Argentina's \$46 billion foreign debt to intensify pressure on the country to stick to economic austerity measures, U.S. officials said Monday.

The decision was not intended to undermine current talks between Argentina and commercial banks on a package to refinance some \$20 billion of the country's foreign debt, said the officials.

"It was a unique way of blending the carrot and the stick," said one official.

The officials did not spell out how much of Argentina's \$46 billion of foreign debt was downgraded to the "substandard" credit rating.

The credit ratings are similar to those private agencies assign to major stocks on Wall Street, which often influence investors' decisions.

A "substandard" credit rating sounds an alarm bell about the quality of loans to Argentina.

The officials said Argentina's efforts to comply with International Monetary Fund (IMF)

reforms and recent payment of some overdue interest persuaded the regulators not to downgrade the entire foreign debt burden.

Monetary sources said the fund was satisfied that Argentina was making good efforts to adhere to the economic reforms it agreed with the IMF in return for financial help worth \$1.42 billion from the global lending agency.

But several monetary sources were extremely pessimistic that a final and formal approval of these reforms by the IMF's executive board would ever be made.

They said their pessimism was based on difficulties facing the talks between Argentina and the commercial banks, the sheer magnitude of the economic problems Buenos Aires must deal with and a history of exasperating negotiations leading up to the tentative IMF pact reached in September.

These monetary sources were also concerned by the political opposition encountered by the government of President Raul Alfonsin whenever he introduced even mild economic reforms, they said.

Western diplomats said Mr. Rajiv Gandhi was expected to take a more active interest in the economy than his mother.

"Mrs. Gandhi had in the past few years been too preoccupied with political issues such as Punjab to give much attention to the economy," one diplomat said.

Private industrialists said they expected the Indian economy would be more liberal under Mr. Rajiv Gandhi because he had no set ideas and leaned towards a more open economic system.

The new government's first major economic decision, to unite the portfolios of industry and economic affairs under one senior cabinet minister, has been welcomed.

Sikhs also play a major role in other sectors of the economy, especially in agriculture, engineering, auto parts, woollen textiles and consumer goods.

Expatriate Egyptians' remittances fall sharply

CAIRO (R) — Economy Minister Mustapha Said reported Monday a sharp decline in Egypt's main hard currency source, remittances by workers abroad, for the period July-September. But he denied the country was facing a foreign exchange crisis.

He told a press conference workers' remittances dropped from 285 million Egyptian pounds (\$343 million) for July-September 1983 to 157.5 million pounds (\$190 million) for the same period of this year.

Bankers have said the drop, combined with a government crackdown on black market currency dealers, has made dollars scarce.

The dollar Monday was selling for 1.40 pounds compared to 1.25 pounds one month ago.

But the minister said higher export receipts left Egypt with a current account surplus during the July-September quarter of 11 million pounds (\$13.25 million).

FAO predicts record world cereal harvest

ROME (R) — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Tuesday forecast a record world cereal crop of 1.761 billion tonnes for 1984, eight per cent up on last year, despite the fourth successive poor harvest in the Soviet Union.

In its monthly Food Outlook published here, FAO trimmed its previous world estimate by two million tonnes.

Soviet production was put at 169 million tonnes, four million down on last month's estimate and 15 million less than last year.

Soviet officials have blamed bad weather, especially drought in the key north Caucasus region, for the fourth consecutive below-target crop under the current five-year plan. But the Soviet press has made it clear that inefficiency, poor management and bad equipment are also partly responsible.

FAO also lowered its estimates of cereal production for the United States, Argentina and Nigeria, but there were increases in the predicted crops in Western and Eastern Europe.

Wheat production is now put at 513 million tonnes compared with 496 million in 1983. Coarse grains account for most of the increase, rising to 793 million from 689 million tonnes. Rice paddy output is estimated to rise to 455 million from 450 million tonnes.

The African food emergency will continue into next year because of poor 1984 main harvest in southern and eastern Africa. Prospects for crops about to be harvested in Sahelian countries have deteriorated sharply in recent weeks, Food Outlook said.

The volume of world trade in cereals is expected to rise by seven million to 209 million tonnes in 1984/85 mainly as a result of larger imports by the Soviet Union.

For the first time the European Community is likely to become a net exporter of coarse grains, the FAO report added.

Meanwhile, an official Chinese magazine said Tuesday the Soviet Union must transform its agricultural system if it wants to feed its people adequately.

Responding to recent Soviet criticism of China's broad economic reforms, Outlook (Liaowang) Weekly said the Soviet Communist Party central committee had to take practical steps to increase harvests.

A signed article in Outlook cited U.S. estimates that this year's Soviet harvest would be over 170 million tonnes, 70 million less than planned, and that Moscow would have to spend about \$7 billion on grain imports.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed easier after a moderately active session. At 1515 GMT the FT-SE 100 index was off 3.5 at 1159.6 having touched a low of 1156.8 early in the session.

Dealers said the half point base rate cut by Barclays Bank was discounted after the October U.K. money supply figures which showed M3 growth at 1/4 to 1/2 per cent. The rise of £2.1 billion in bank lending had a negative influence leaving net falls of up to 1/4 point in government bonds.

Equity leaders were generally above lowest levels. Gold shares were firm.

Among the leaders, BTR was 2p lower at 522 after touching 517 and Bowater was 2p higher at 180 after 177. ICI was 6p easier at 678 while Thorn EMI was 13p lower at 461 after last week's gains.

Insurance closed with gains ranging to 5p as in Prudential at 463. Oils eased in quiet trade with Burmah off 5p to 199 and Shell 7p lower at 646.

J. Sainsbury dropped 8p to 292 after slightly lower than expected half year results. Other foods eased in sympathy.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.26320/30	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3090/93	Canadian dollars
	2.9445/60	West German marks
	3.3220/35	Dutch guilders
	2.4200/30	Swiss francs
	59.48/51	Belgian francs
	9.0350/450	French francs
	1837.00/1838.00	Italian lire
	242.00/15	Japanese yen
	8.4700/50	Swedish crowns
	8.5925/6025	Norwegian crowns
	10.6600/800	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	345.25/345.75	U.S. dollars

Swiss bank to acquire U.K. firm

ZURICH (R) — Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS) said Monday it planned to acquire Phillips and Drew, one of London's largest stockbroking firms, in take advantage of moves designed to boost the role of London as a world financial centre.

The price of the takeover, which will take place in several stages and could be completed by 1986, was not disclosed.

Steps to make the London stock market more competitive with New York in the provision of financial services have provoked a spate of mergers in Britain and a surge of foreign interest. But UBS — the largest bank in Switzerland — said it was the first Swiss bank to buy into a London-brokerage firm.

The first step in Union Bank's acquisition of Phillips and Drew was taken over the weekend with an agreement that UBS would take a 29.9 per cent interest in Phillips and Drew.

The full takeover will occur as soon as regulations on the London stock exchange permit.

Moves under way to deregulate the British stock market will end fixed commissions as well as the expensive "single capacity system of trading" under which members of the exchange may act only as a broker — the agent for investors — or as a jobber, who carries out the transaction on the exchange.

Many American firms have expanded their London offices or invested in London brokers since deregulation moves began.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VANER

WENYL

ELCHEK

TOMMAR

I'm shocked!

WHAT FOUR-LETTER WORD DO SOME PEOPLE FIND MOST OBJECTIONABLE?

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

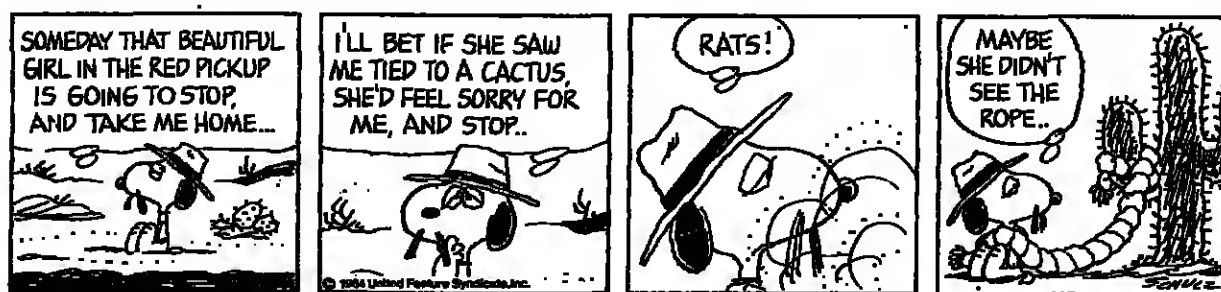
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SORRY BERTH STYLUS GRUBBY

Answer: What the man who was running in short bursts ended up with—BURST SHORTS

Peanuts



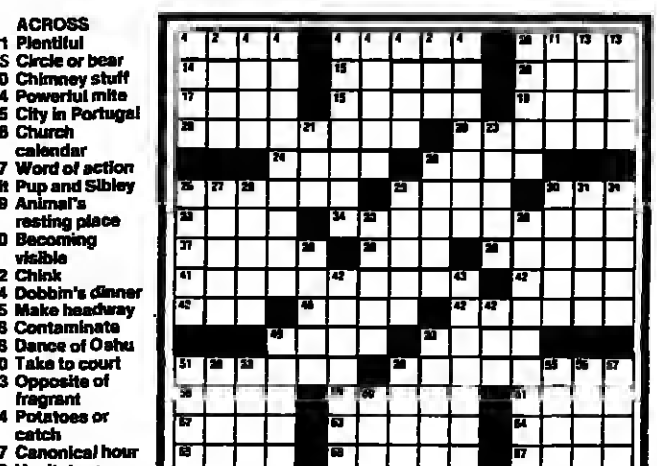
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Elaine George



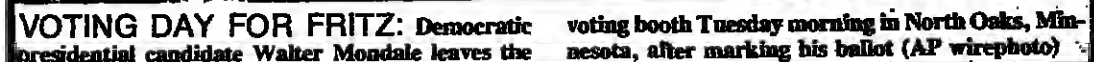
© 1984 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

5. Clothing sizes, 6. Baking places, 7. Protracted, 8. Bushveld, 9. Mischievous kids, 10. goos (ignom), 11. Port in Algeria, 12. Norse god, 13. Technician, 21. Liquid measure: abbr., 23. Lasso, 25. Non-member at the club, 26. Movie star of the 40s, 27. One way to tie the knot, 28. Last, 29. Less or Marilyn, 30. Max. fiber, 31. Combine, 32. Plumed bird, 33. Obey, 35. Important, 36. Van, 38. Diver, 42. Numismatic, 43. Sprung wheel, 44. Hindu deity, 45. Plead with, 46. Actual, 47. Squirming, 48. — de mar.

COLUMN

cabinet-level official to die fighting the rebels which Nicaragua says operate out of Honduras.

LOMA LINDA, California (AP) — Baby Fae, in her 10th day with a baboon's heart, was "right on target" and reaching the point where she could receive full-strength formula for the first time since her historic transplant, doctors said. "She's still doing about the same, which is fine," Loma Linda University Medical Center Spokeswoman Amy Wood said.



Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government has launched a peace drive, distributing emergency food supplies to thousands of refugees sheltering in camps and ensuring protection for Sikhs who fled the violence.

Between 1934 and 1945, the People's Court sentenced about 16,000 opponents of the Nazi regime, 5,000 of them to death.

The state prosecutor said two months ago that investigation into 41 other People's Court judges and prosecutors would probably be concluded by the end of the year.

dissidents

The group was told by plainclothes policemen that the new conference was banned and as they were dispersing police briefly detained Imsirovic, one of the six defendants.

Ms. Kelly told journoalists tha

The two have submitted a new

essions

Mr. Schmidt, 35, was shot

Mr. Schmidt, 35, was the only member of the government force to die in Monday's fighting in eastern Zelaya province. The ministry said 73 rebels were killed and three wounded.

Ubeda Commando Squad, a special ministry force headed by Major Schmidt, was sent to the area about 120 kilometres east of Managua after the right-wing rebels

The ministry said Mr. Schmidt's body was brought back to Managua Monday night for burial. Mr. Schmidt was the first

cabinet-level official to die fighting the rebels which Nicaragua says operate out of Honduras.

munications Minister Enrique Schmidt was killed fighting U.S.-backed rebels while leading a special commando squad, the Interior Ministry said.

The communiqué said the Pablo Iñabada Commando Squad

Schmidt, was sent to the area about 120 kilometres east of Managua after the right-wing rebels had killed civilians.

The ministry said Mr. Schmidt's body was brought back to Managua Monday night for burial. Mr. Schmidt was the first cabinet-level official to die fighting against the rebels.

says operate out of Honduras.

BY CHARLES GOREN
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1-A: South, vulnerable, you hold:
 ♠ A J 9 5 ♥ 8 7 ○ K J 6 ♠ AQ106
 The bidding has proceeded:
 East South West
 1 ♥ Dble Pass 2 ○
 Pass ?
 What do you bid now?
 2 - Pass 1 vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ K 9 8 6 ♠ AJ10632 ○ K 6 ♠ 5
 The bidding has proceeded:
 South West North East
 1 ♥ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
 ?
 What do you bid now?
 Q.3- Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
 ♠ QJ109763 ♥ A ○ AKQJ2
 What is your opening bid?
 Q.4- Neither vulnerable, as

South you hold:
 ♠1095 ♥K63 ♦A84 ♣J982
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
 2 ♥ Pass ?
 What action do you take?
 Q.5—Both vulnerable. as
 South you hold:
 ♠J963 ♦Q9854 ♣Q932
 Partner opens the bidding
 with one diamond. What action
 do you take?
 Q.6—Both vulnerable, as
 South you hold:
 ♠A987 ♥KJ76 ♦AJ104 ♣J9
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♦ Pass
 2 NT Pass ?
 What do you bid now?